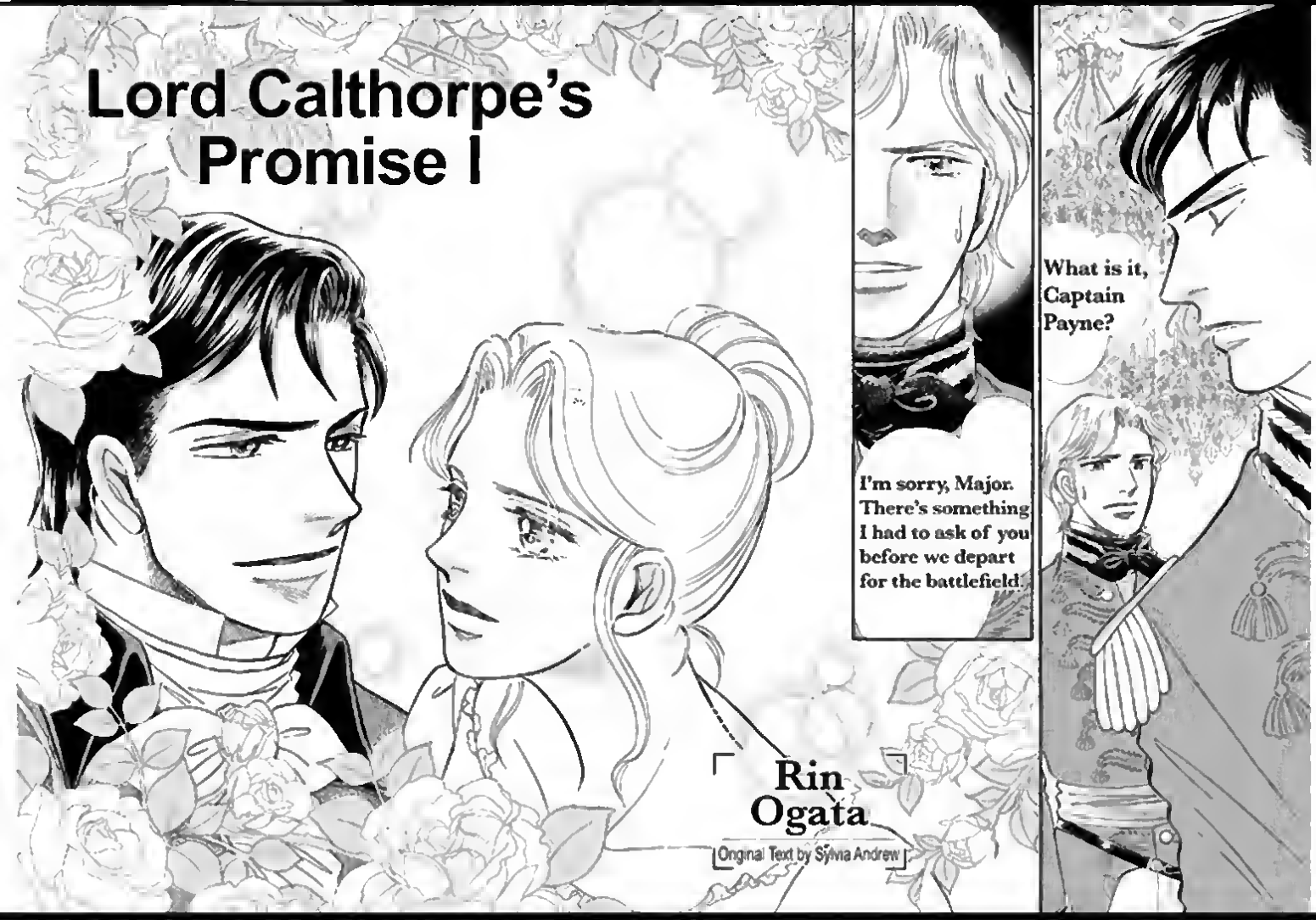
June 1815
Brussels, Belgium
At a time when the French army has already crossed the border...
It's an unreal sight.
Don't be like that, Adam.
I suppose that would be your specialty, Ivo. How many ladies have forgotten their unease tonight, thanks to your compliments?
Ha ha!
We British soldiers may be eager to rush into battle with Napoleon right away...
...but following Duke Wellington's orders to "Quell the unease of the people by casually attending dinner parties," is also important.
Major Adam Calthorpe!
Major!

Lord Calthorpe's Promise I



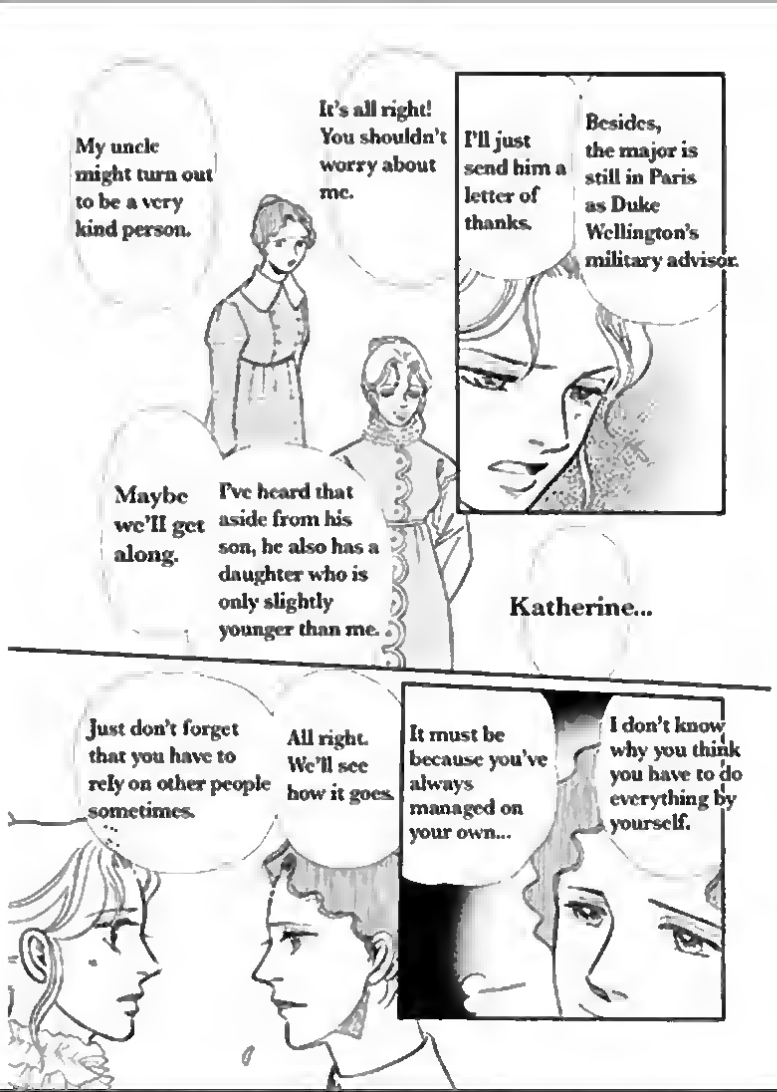
Rin Ogata

Original Text by Sylvia Andrew

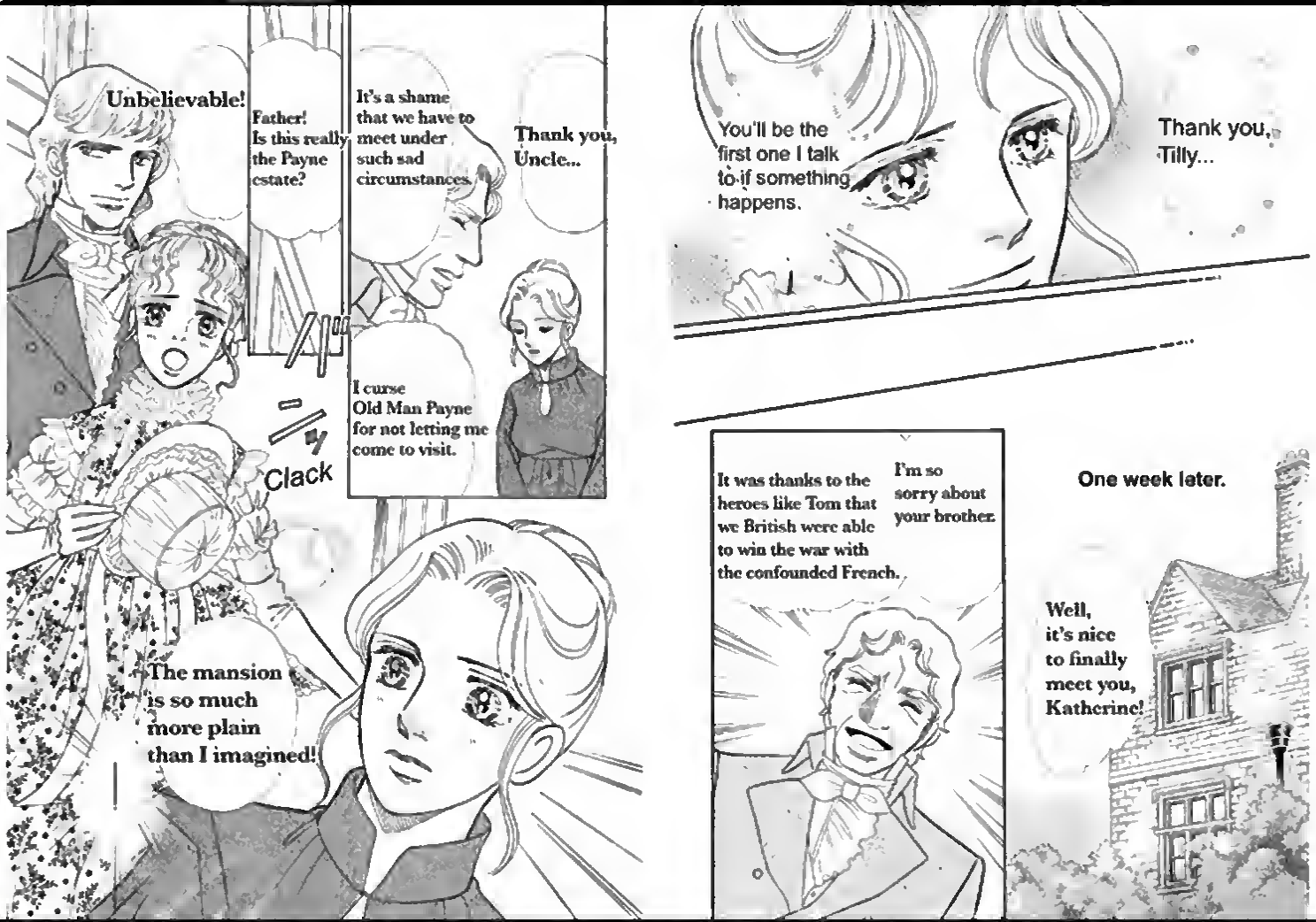
It's been a month since his superior, Major Adam Calthorpe, notified us.
My older brother Tom was killed at the battle of Waterloo with the French.
The funeral didn't feel real... like a bad dream.
I spoke to our lawyers about the problems that arose with the head of the family dead...
After all that, I finally have some time to think.
And now, the grief stabs at me, as if I'd lost part of myself.
I still can't believe it.
Hampshire, England
Helier Manor
I'll never see Tom again.
It feels like any minute, he'll poke his silly, handsome face in the door...
...saying, "Captain Payne, reporting home!"
Katherine...
Yes, Tilly. I feel the same way.

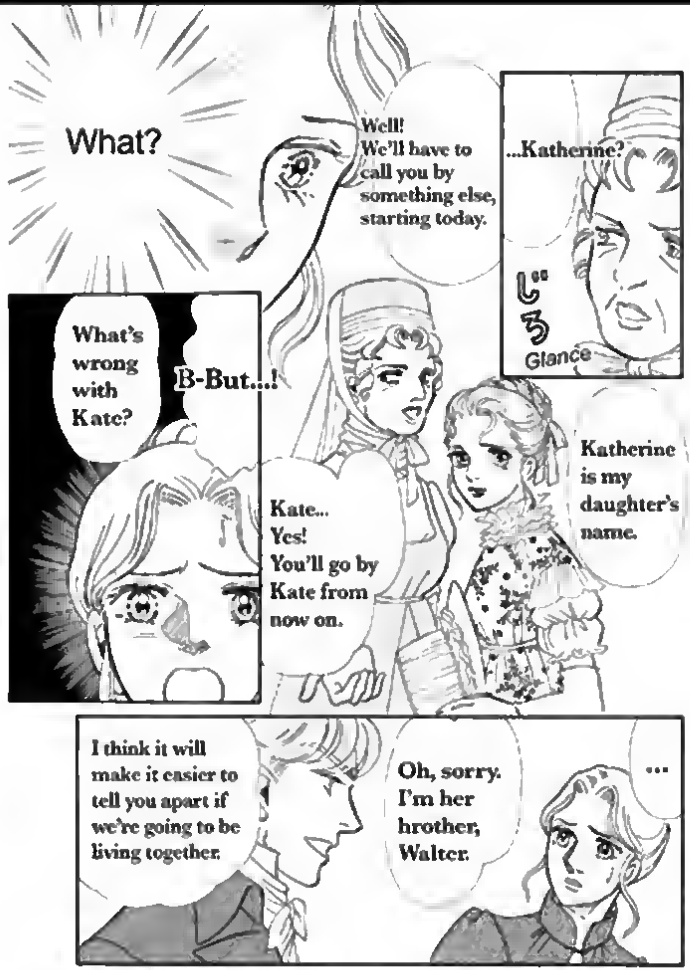
But he was also selfish, rushing off to join the military, he idolized when Grandfather passed away, despite being his only heir.
I'm sorry. I was just lost in thought.
Are you all right?
Still, I would turn a blind eye to all of that if only I could see his smile again.
Inherit it?
...Then, what will happen to you?
We have to prepare the manor for my uncle, who is coming to inherit it from Tom.
Now, we don't have any time to waste.
He's such a distant relative, and we've never met.
I can only hope that he'll agree...
At least, that's what my executors think...
I'm sure that my uncle will continue to let me live here.

These ruins will be our secret castle, OK?
Ketherine!
Katherine!
You heve to keep it e secret. Even from Grandfather!
We lost our parents when we were young, and grew up very close.
The only reason that I didn't wither away under Grandfather's strict care...
...Was because of Tom's innocent nature.


My uncle might turn out to be a very kind person.
It's all right! You shouldn't worry about me.
I'll just send him a letter of thanks.
Besides, the major is still in Paris as Duke Wellington's military advisor.
Maybe we'll get along.
I've heard that aside from his son, he also has a daughter who is only slightly younger than me.
Katherine...
Just don't forget that you have to rely on other people sometimes.
All right. We'll see how it goes.
It must be because you've always managed on your own...
I don't know why you think you have to do everything by yourself.

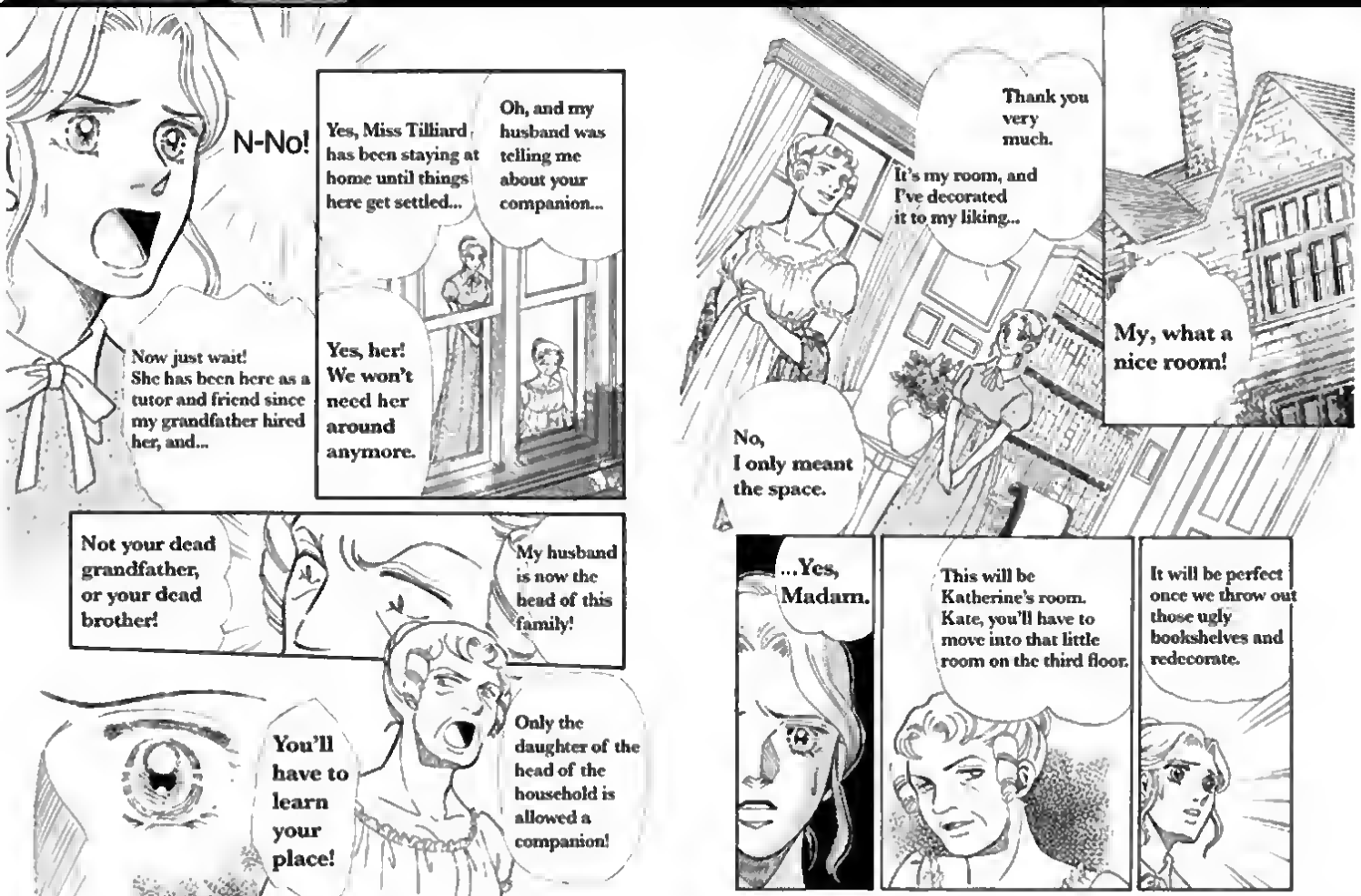
You've been the one who looked after the estate while Tom's been away...
It isn't fair that you shouldn't be able to inherit it, just because you're a woman!
But...!
Those inheritance laws are so unjust!
He wrote that he wanted to do what he could, didn't he?
What if you met him and...
I can't! Just because he was Tom's commanding officer, I can't bother him with this.
I may just be your former tutor, but my main concern is for you to make plans for your future!
What if you asked for help? Remember Major Calthorpe, who notified you about Tom?

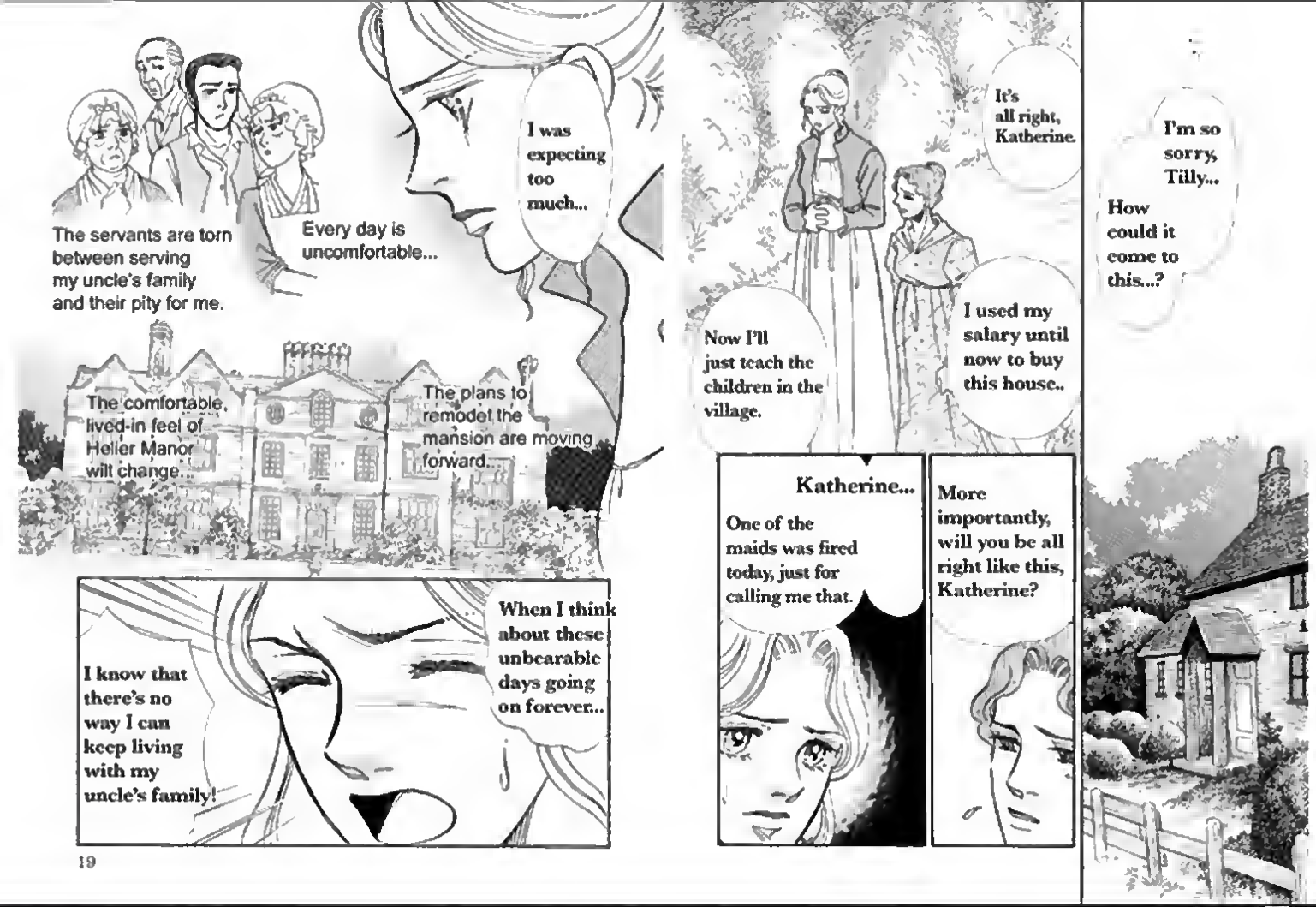

Unbelievable!
Father! Is this really the Payne estate?
It's a shame that we have to meet under such sad circumstances.
Thank you, Uncle...
I curse Old Man Payne for not letting me come to visit.
Clack
The mansion is so much more plain than I imagined!
You'll be the first one I talk to if something happens.
Thank you, Tilly...
It was thanks to the heroes like Tom that we British were able to win the war with the confounded French.
I'm so sorry about your brother.
One week later.
Well, it's nice to finally meet you, Katherine!


What?
Well! We'll have to call you by something else, starting today.
...Katherine?
Glance
What's wrong with Kate?
B-But...!
Kate... Yes! You'll go by Kate from now on.
Katherine is my daughter's name.
I think it will make it easier to tell you apart if we're going to be living together.
Oh, sorry. I'm her brother, Walter.
...

They're beautiful...
These are my uncle's children?
No! No! No!
The girl is like a doll, and her brother has all the Payne family's handsome features ...
I've taken a look at the mansion, and we're going to have to expand, not to mention fixing the interior!
Who is this?
Hey, I told you... This is Tom's sister, Katherine.
N-Nice to meet you...

Don't forget you promised me a beautiful room, Father!
Ha ha
We'll make your room look fabulous.
Yes, yes. I know, Katherine.
Just a moment, Uncle...!
Now, no one likes unreasonable women, Kate. We're tired from our long trip.
Ha ha ha
Ha ha
Slam
...
So from now on, you'll just have to abide by the way our family does things.
Katherine... Er, Kate.
We aren't cold-hearted people. I don't intend to throw you out, now that you're all alone.
Penniless...?
It's only fair, isn't it?
Seeing as how you're now penniless...

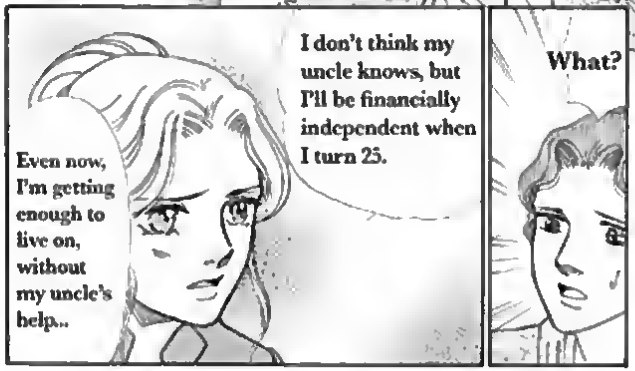

N-No!
Now just wait! She has been here as a tutor and friend since my grandfather hired her, and...
Yes, Miss Tilliard has been staying at home until things here get settled...
Oh, and my husband was telling me about your companion...
Yes, her! We won't need her around anymore.
Not your dead grandfather, or your dead brother!
My husband is now the head of this family!
You'll have to learn your place!
Only the daughter of the head of the household is allowed a companion!
Thank you very much.
It's my room, and I've decorated it to my liking...
My, what a nice room!
No, I only meant the space.
...Yes, Madam.
This will be Katherine's room. Kate, you'll have to move into that little room on the third floor.
It will be perfect once we throw out those ugly bookshelves and redecorate.

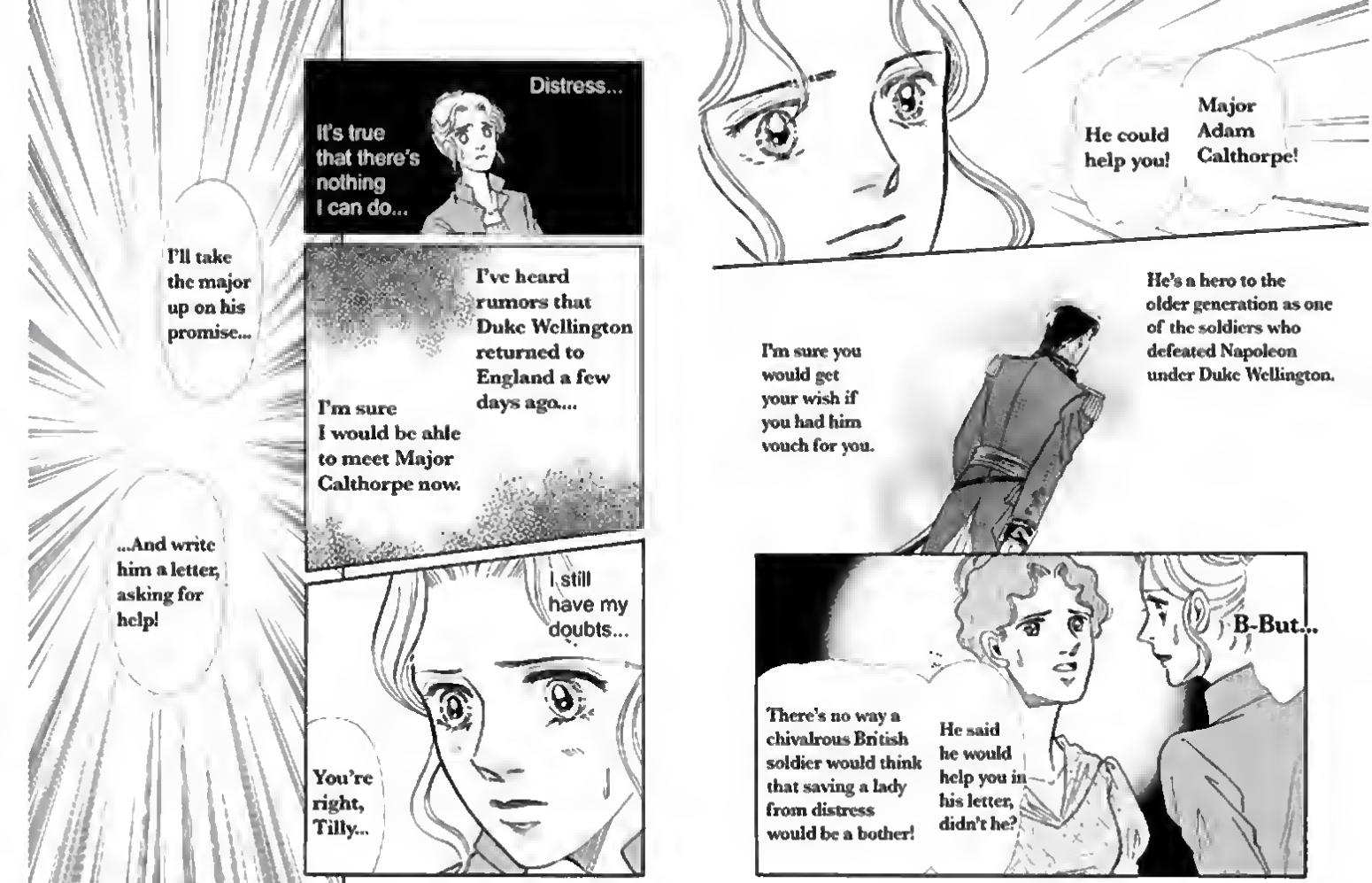

I was expecting too much...
Every day is uncomfortable...
The servants are torn between serving my uncle's family and their pity for me.
The comfortable, lived-in feel of Heller Manor will change...
The plans to remodel the mansion are moving forward.
I know that there's no way I can keep living with my uncle's family!
When I think about these unbearable days going on forever...
It's all right, Katherine.
Now I'll just teach the children in the village.
I used my salary until now to buy this house..
Katherine...
One of the maids was fired today, just for calling me that.
More importantly, will you be all right like this, Katherine?
I'm so sorry, Tilly...
How could it come to this...?

What will the executors of your estate think?
A lady of stature, living with a servant woman...
It will be all right! If I can explain the situation to them...
O-Of course, if you don't mind living here, you're welcome to, but...
...

...No, wait.
There's another way!
But, Tilly, it's the only way...!
I don't think it will work.
I doubt that your argument would convince them.
General Armitage and Sir Jones are both old-fashioned, traditional men.

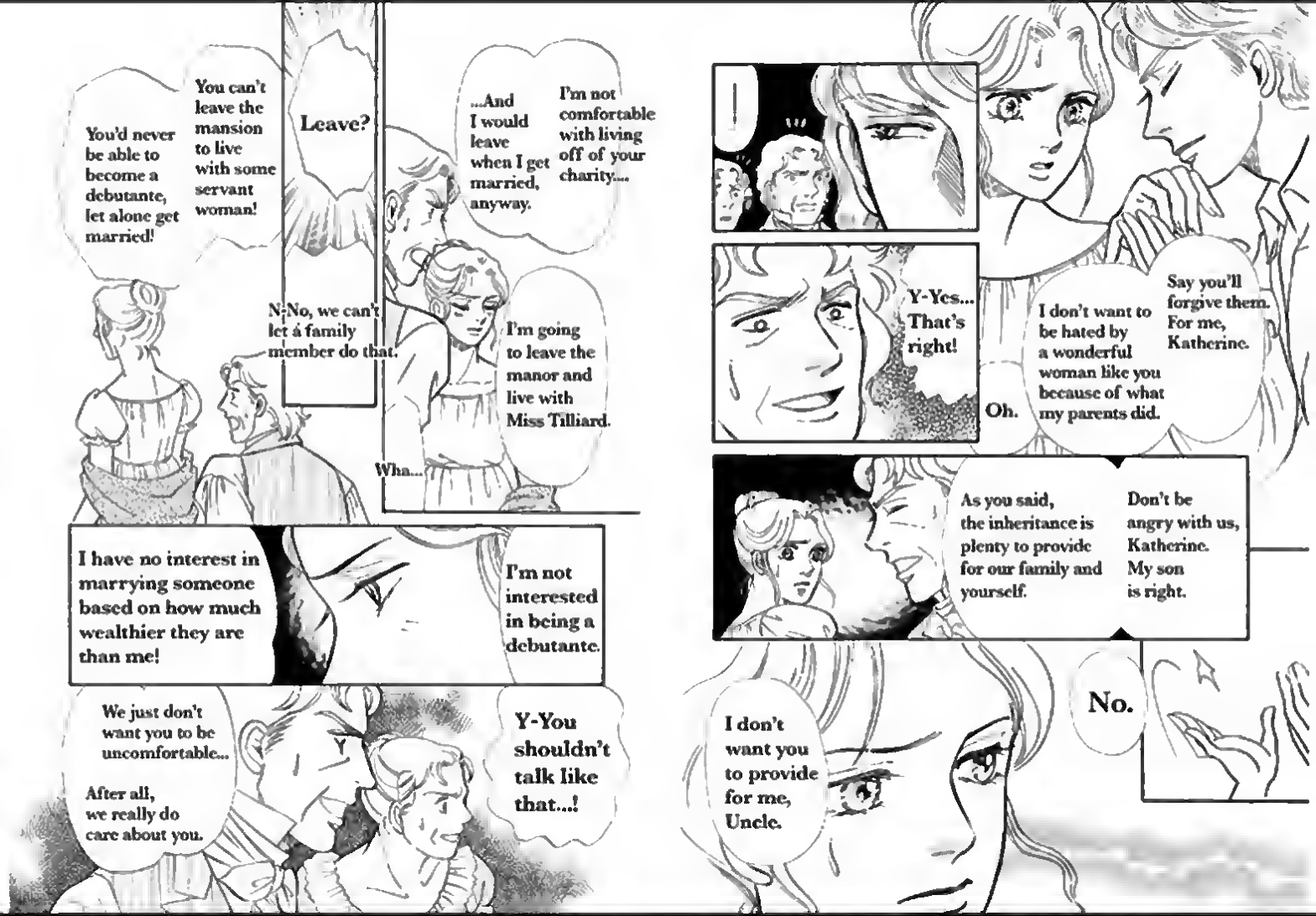
Tilly... If it's all right with you, can I live here...?
What are you going to do?
Katherine
...
You don't have anyone to go to...


Even now, I'm getting enough to live on, without my uncle's help...
I don't think my uncle knows, but I'll be financially independent when I turn 25.
What?


Distress...
It's true that there's nothing I can do...
I'll take the major up on his promise...
I've heard rumors that Duke Wellington returned to England a few days ago....
I'm sure I would be able to meet Major Calthorpe now.
...And write him a letter, asking for help!
I still have my doubts...
You're right, Tilly...
He could help you!
Major Adam Calthorpe!
He's a hero to the older generation as one of the soldiers who defeated Napoleon under Duke Wellington.
I'm sure you would get your wish if you had him vouch for you.
B-But...
There's no way a chivalrous British soldier would think that saving a lady from distress would be a bother!
He said he would help you in his letter, didn't he?

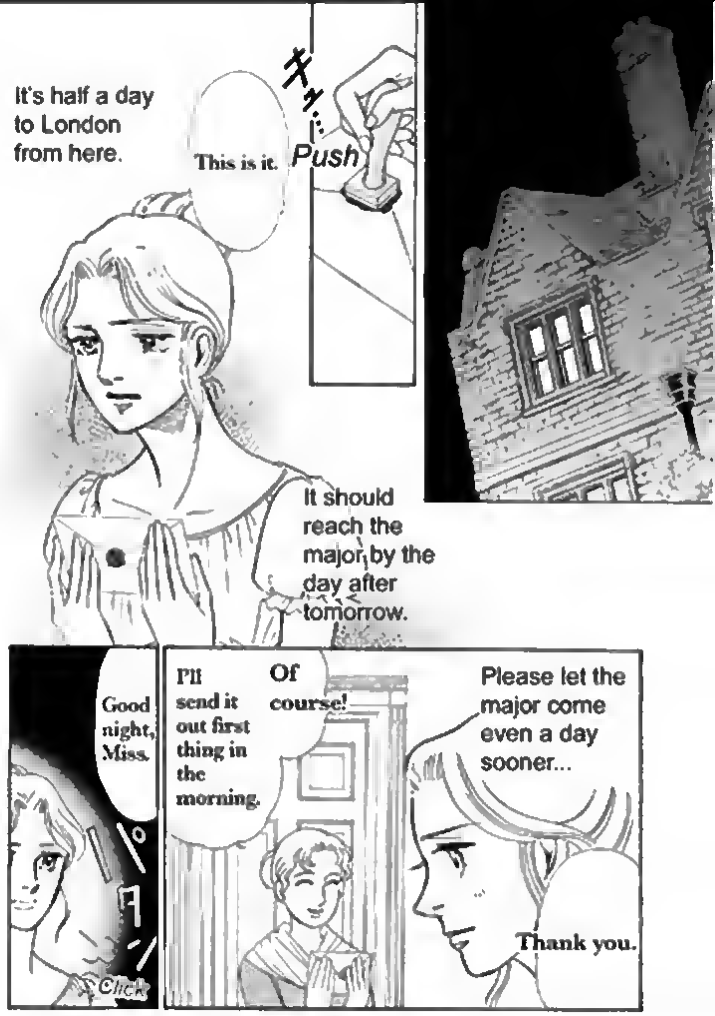
Hmph. You must have both been laughing at us.
I went to inform her that she was fired, as you instructed me to.
I was at Miss Tilliard's house.
Uncle...?
Gasp
Was it funny, Kate?
Watching us work ourselves up, when we aren't even getting any of the money?
Er... The master is waiting for you in the living room.
Welcome home, Miss Kath... Er, Miss Kate.
I was getting tired of waiting for you.
It's about time.
Where have you been?
What could it be?
He is?
He'd been ignoring me like the air recently, apart from meals.

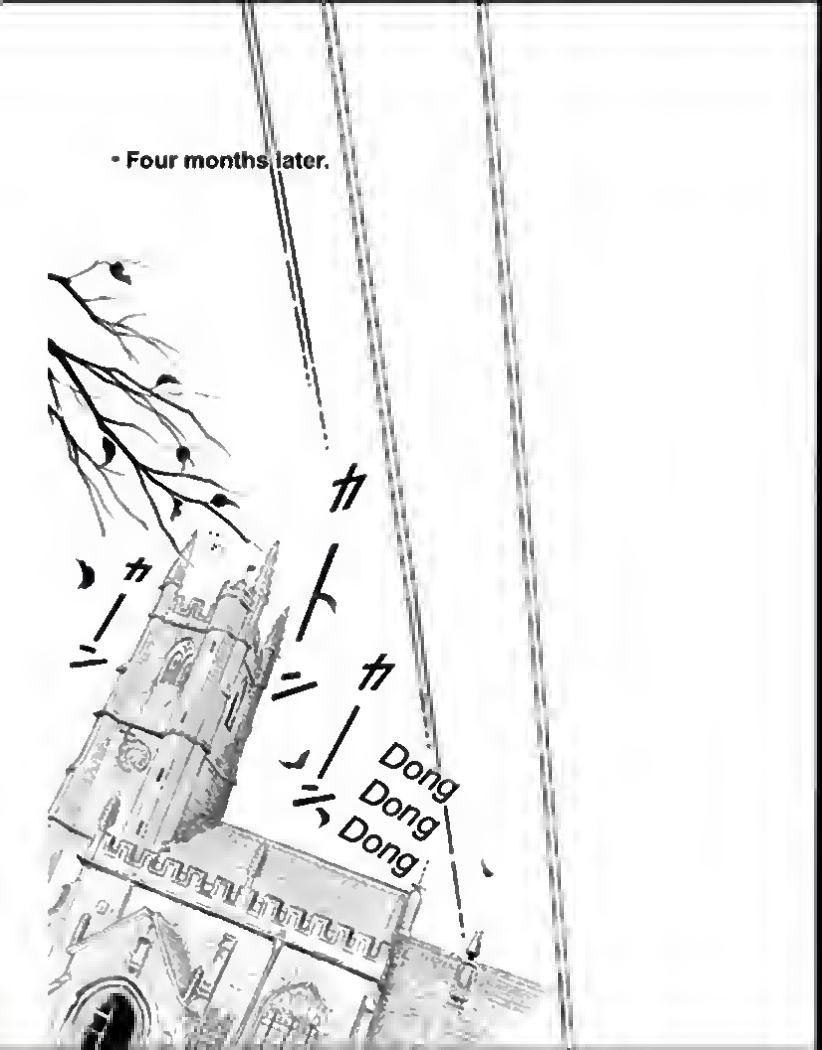
W-Walter...?
GRAB
You brat! You think that you call tell us what to do?
Ah!
You must think my parents are despicable.
I'm sorry, Katherine.
We were just a modest branch of the family, and this inheritance has made us forget who we really are.
They don't really mean any of it.
Walter!
What?
At this rate, we can't afford Katherine's debutante ball next year, let alone the remodeling!
Little brat! You just wanted to watch us try to figure it out!
We asked the family lawyer about the remodeling budget!
The property is included in the inheritance...
...but no one told us the money we could have used now was from your mother's fortune and the rest is all going to you when you turn 25!
That's not fair! I tried to tell you the day you came, but you wouldn't listen!
And the money from the territory's tribute is plenty to live on, if you didn't insist on being extravagant.


You'd never be able to become a debutante, let alone get married!
You can't leave the mansion to live with some servant woman!
Leave?
N-No, we can't let a family member do that.
...And I would leave when I get married, anyway.
I'm not comfortable with living off of your charity....
I'm going to leave the manor and live with Miss Tilliard.
Wha...
I have no interest in marrying someone based on how much wealthier they are than me!
I'm not interested in being a debutante.
We just don't want you to be uncomfortable...
After all, we really do care about you.
Y-You shouldn't talk like that...!
!
Y-Yes... That's right!
Oh.
I don't want to be hated by a wonderful woman like you because of what my parents did.
Say you'll forgive them. For me, Katherine.
As you said, the inheritance is plenty to provide for our family and yourself.
Don't be angry with us, Katherine. My son is right.
No.
I don't want you to provide for me, Uncle.

Katherine...
I can tell that you're serious.
W-Who is it that you're asking?
Calm down, Father.
What...?
I'm sure that if he recommends it, both of my executors will agree.
It's your decision, and we won't stand in your way.
And the way their attitude changed...
After all that, how can they say they care about me?
I know they're up to something.
What are they planning?
Not to worry!
I have someone else in mind to act as my intermediary.
Even if I brought it up, I doubt they would accept it
I can't beer to imagine living with people like this any longer.
And, Katherine, what would your executors think?

Master Walter!
I told you to call her "Kate"!
Please! That's Miss Katherine's...
Oh!
I won't say anything!
I-I won't!
Then don't tell anyone about this.
Eek!
Do you want to keep your job?


It's half a day to London from here.
This is it.
Push
It should reach the major by the day after tomorrow.
Good night, Miss.
Click
I'll send it out first thing in the morning.
Of course!
Please let the major come even a day sooner...
Thank you.



I see...

Department of the Army:
Major under Duke Wellington,
Lord Adam Calthorpe

Shojo Manhwa Scans

Lord Calthorpe's Promise 1

Sylvia Andrew

shojomanhwascans.blogspot.com

Shojo Manhwa Scans

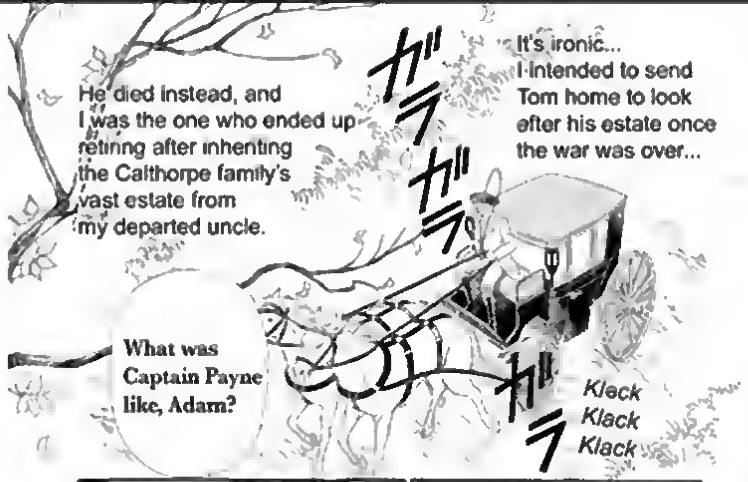
Presents

Lord Calthorpe's Promise 1

Editor: Duchess

Scans provider: Ruby

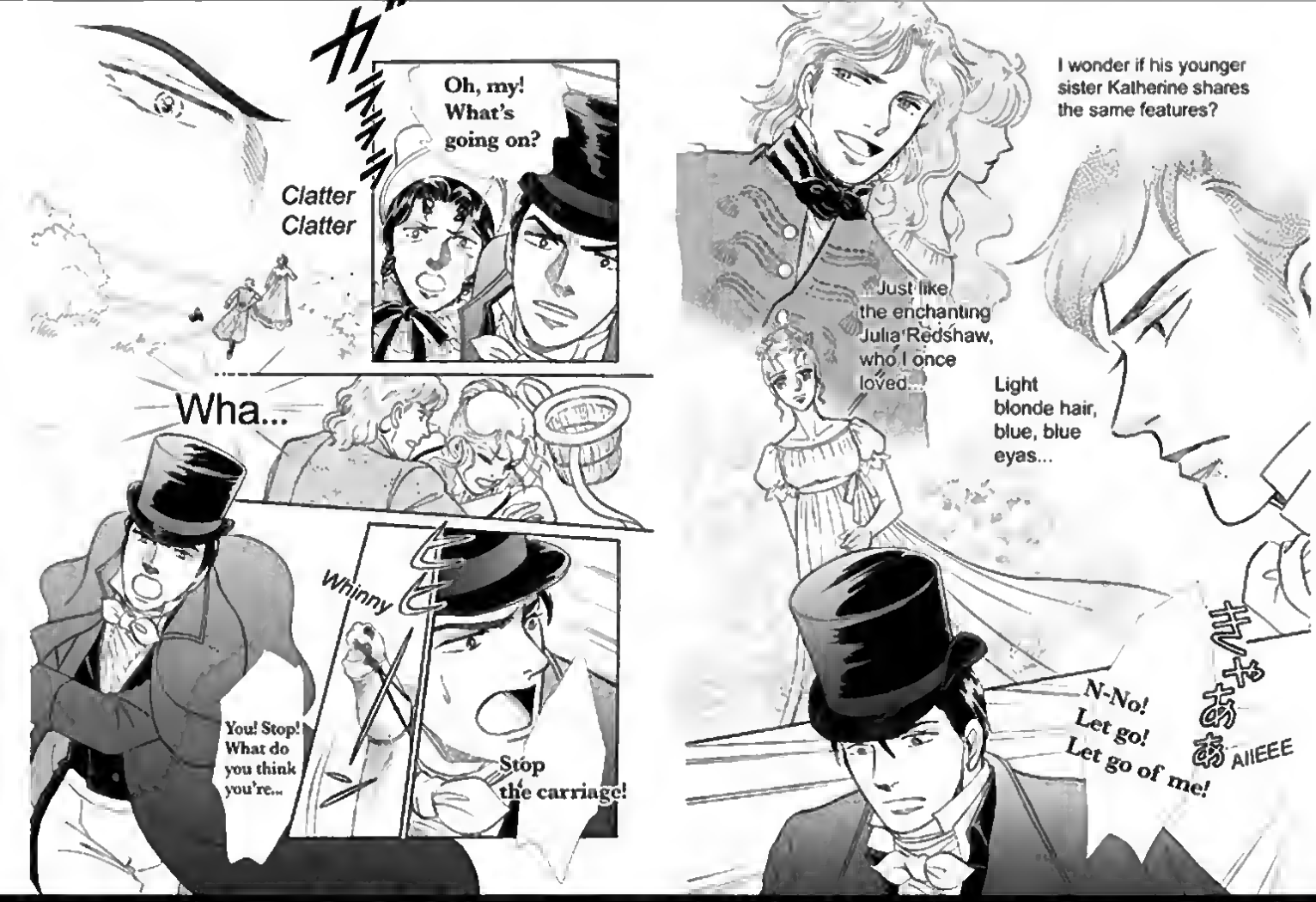
We rushed through our tour of the territory, all to keep your promise to the man resting here. To look after his sister.
Now, let's go.
Captain Tom Payne was brave until the very end.
Adam!
Adam...
What? Then you left your sister alone to join the Army, even though you're the only heir?
On the day of the battle of Waterloo, when he asked me...
It was as if he knew what would happen.
She's had to take care of the estate all by herself because of my selfish idolization of military life.
Yes... I always felt badly for what I did to her...
It's rude to keep a lady waiting.
What is it?
What is it, Mother?
Now that you've retired and gained a court rank, you'll have to put aside your devotion to your soldiers and remember your manners.
You would have stood there until nightfall if I didn't come stop you.


He died instead, and I was the one who ended up retiring after inheriting the Calthorpe family's vast estate from my departed uncle.
It's ironic... I intended to send Tom home to look after his estate once the war was over...
What was Captain Payne like, Adam?
Klack Klack Klack

Handsome, but the exact opposite of Ivo.
Yes...
Come to think of it....
I suppose in a way, he was somewhat like a dream prince from a fairy tale.
He was cheerful and slightly irresponsible, but a fierce fighter on the battlefield, despite his appearance.
Oh, you mean he was handsome?

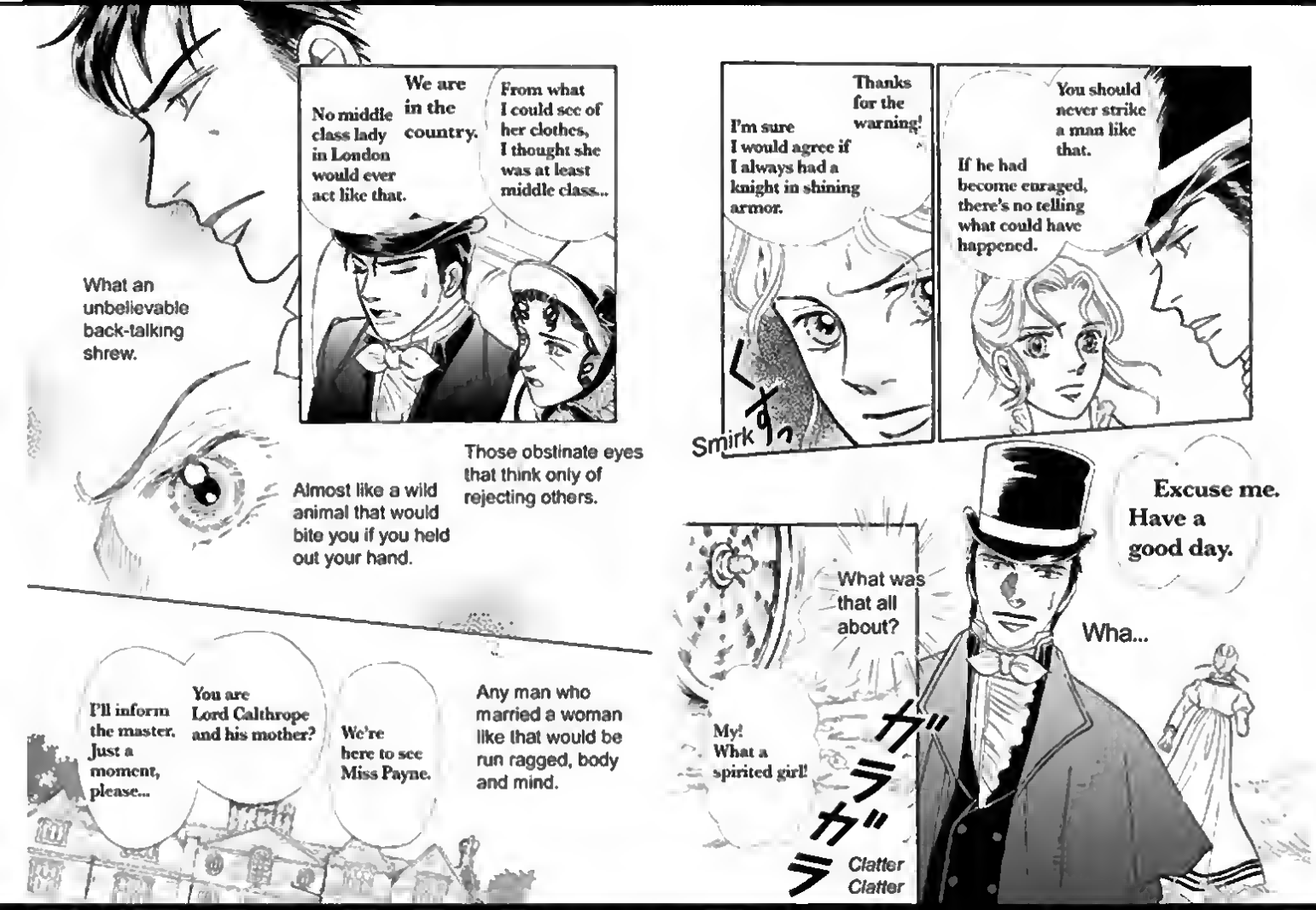
I know how it sounds coming from her brother, but Ketherine is a smart, wonderful girl. I want her to be happy.
Please, Major... If I die in this battle, please look after my little sister.
Hey, Adam. If she's so great, why don't you just marry her?
If only you really would marry her, Major. Nothing could be better for her.
Behave yourself, Ivo!

I made my promise, and we left for the battlefield...
Marriage aside... If the unthinkable happens, you have my word that I'll look after your sister.


Oh, my! What's going on?
Clatter Clatter
Wha...
Whinny
You! Stop! What do you think you're...
Stop the carriage!
I wonder if his younger sister Katherine shares the same features?
Just like the enchanting Julia Redshaw, who I once loved...
Light blonde hair, blue, blue eyas...
N-No! Let go! Let go of me!
AIIEEE

Don't be so stubborn, Kate.
You shouldn't treat your future husband with such hostility.
Hmph...
Jump
I could never marry a man like you!
Husband?
...
Excuse me, Miss. Are you all right?
I-I hate men!
I can't stand it!
OW!
SLAP!
Wha...
Stay away from me!
I don't even want to look at you!
W-What did you say? You...!

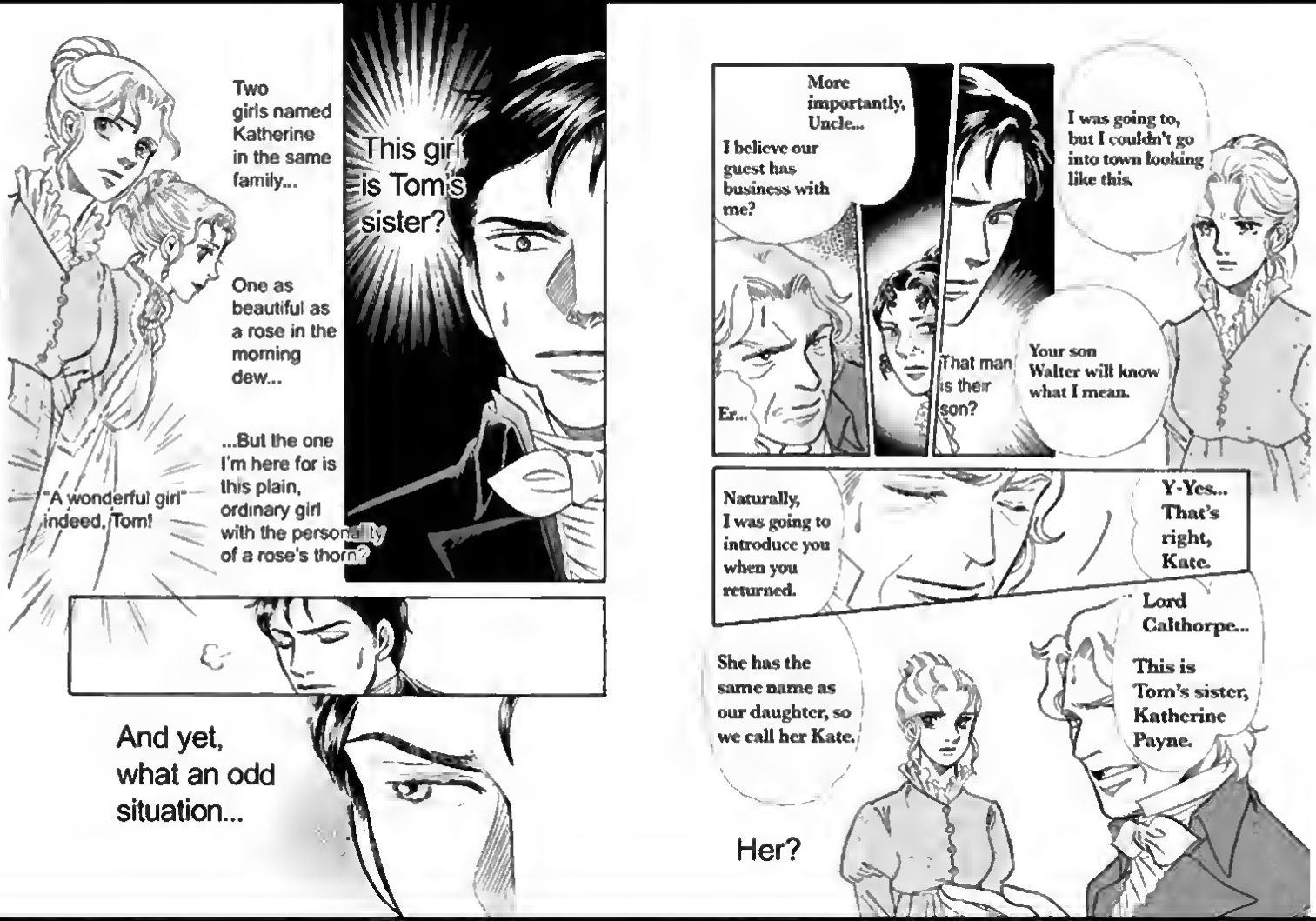
Don't worry about me. I'll be just fine.
I-I'm perfectly capable of standing up by myself.
What?
Yes, well... Where do you live? I can take you there in my carriage.
No, thank you! I'm telling you to leave me alone!
...I see.
Allow me to give you a word of advice.
How rude... On top of her ill manners, she has all the charm of a rose thorn.
Take my hand. Let me help you up.
Jump
Slap!
I'm fine! Just leave me alone!


We are in the country.
No middle class lady in London would ever act like that.
From what I could see of her clothes, I thought she was at least middle class...
What an unbelievable back-talking shrew.
Those obstinate eyes that think only of rejecting others.
Almost like a wild animal that would bite you if you held out your hand.
Thanks for the warning!
I'm sure I would agree if I always had a knight in shining armor.
Smirk
You should never strike a man like that.
If he had become enraged, there's no telling what could have happened.
Excuse me. Have a good day.
Wha...
What was that all about?
My! What a spirited girl!
ガラガラ
Clatter Clatter
Any man who married a woman like that would be run ragged, body and mind.
You are Lord Calthrope and his mother?
I'll inform the master. Just a moment, please...
We're here to see Miss Payne.

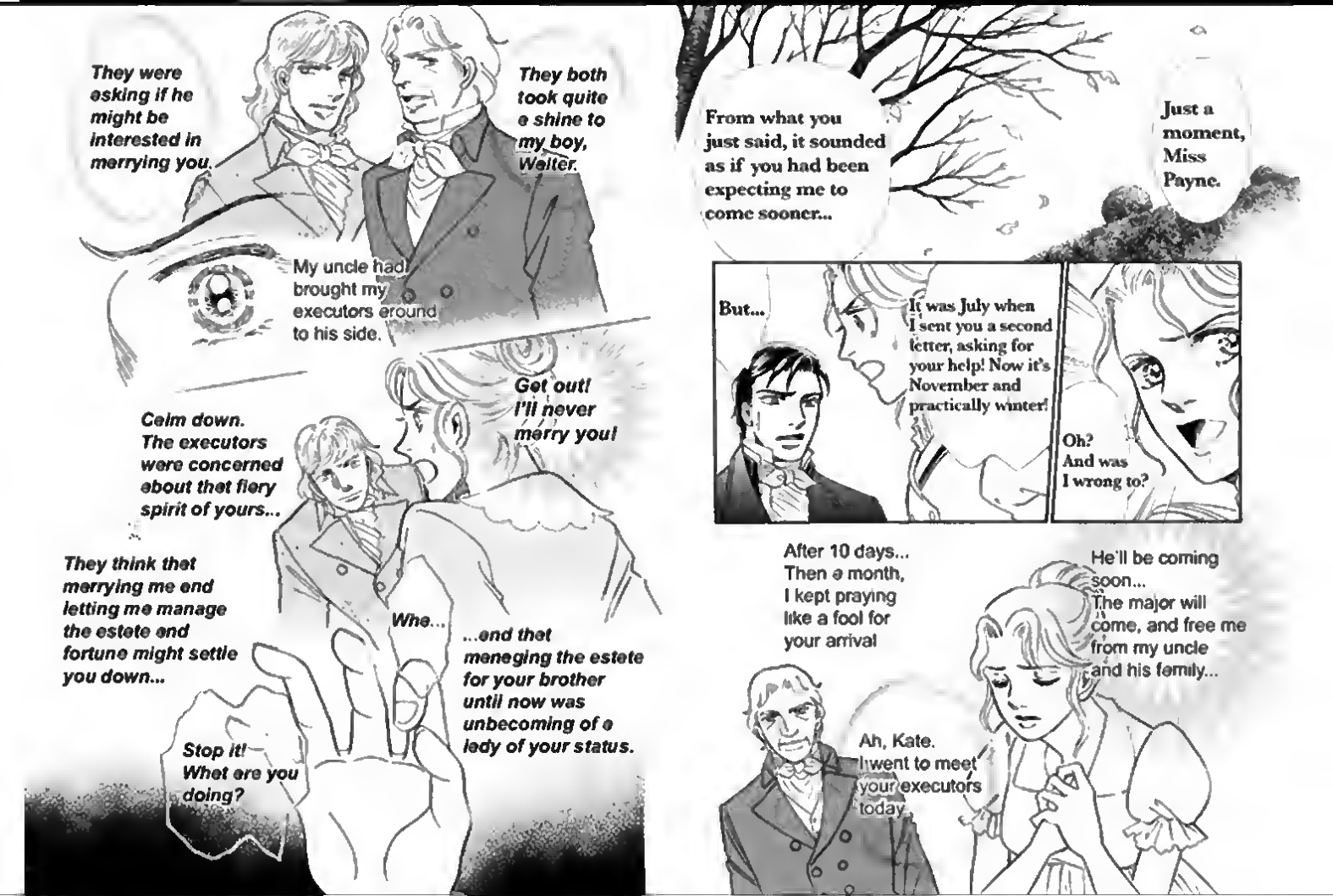
It's a pleasure to meet you, Lord Calthorpe.
I had imagined that they might resemble each other, but she's almost identical to Julia Redshaw...
This is Tom's sister?
Yes. The lady of the house is an old friend.
Ah, so you're staying at the Quentins' tonight?

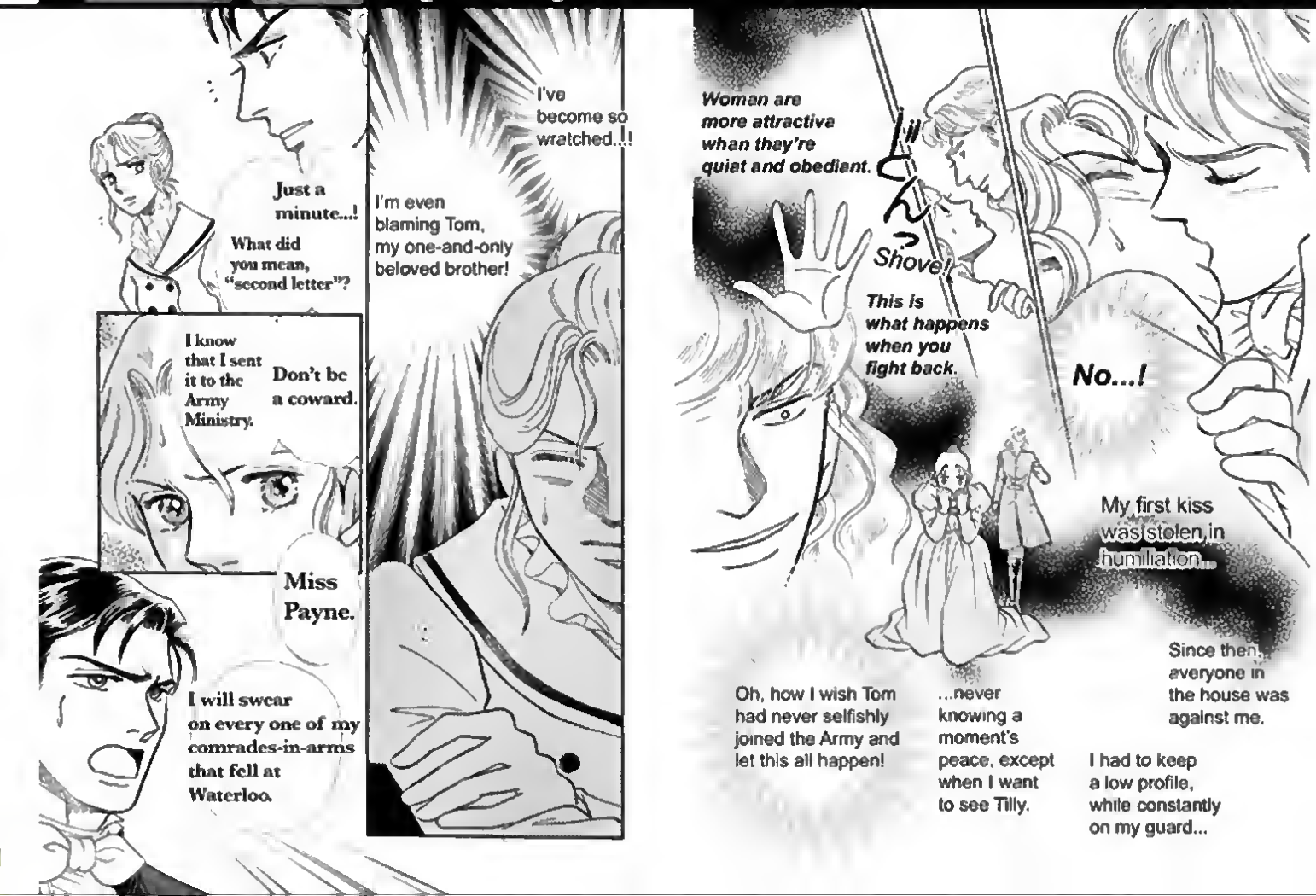
Please, come into the living room. We've prepared tea.
Click.
I'm honored to meet you, Lord Calthorpe, Mrs. Calthorpe.
Nice to meet you, Lord Payne.
Thank you so much for visiting.
Welcome! I'm the head of the household, Henry Payne.
Allow me to introduce my family...
This is Ellen and Katherine.

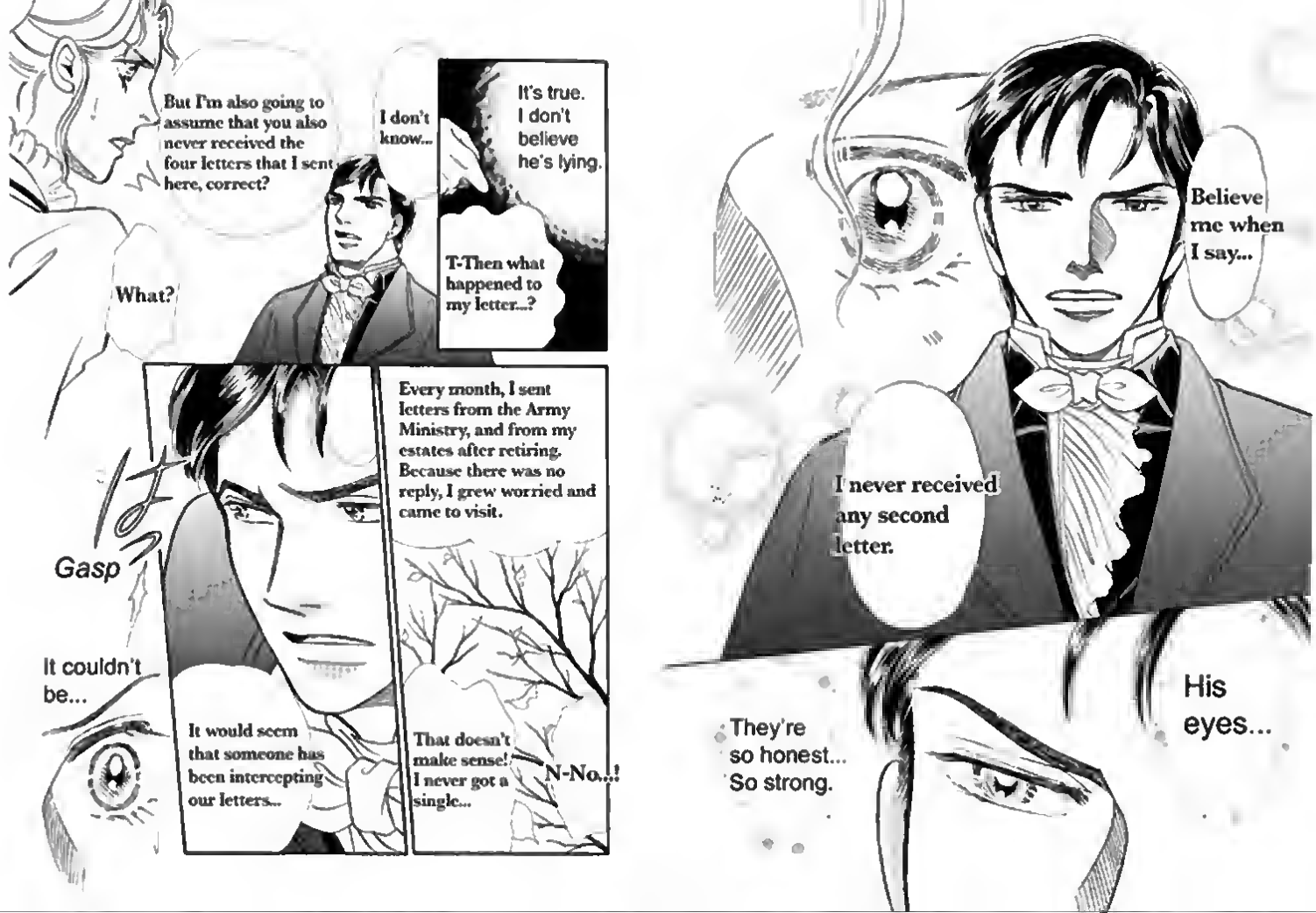
That back-talking shrew...?
K-Kate...!
Weren't you supposed to be visiting Miss Tilliard?
...
I can't believe that you're still chasing the memory of the woman who rejected you for not being from the wealthy part of the family.
Really, Adam.
At least try to keep from drooling.
My, look at the beautiful flower beds! Come see, Adam.
Oh? I've heard that she's coddled by that rich husband of hers and lives a life of luxury these days.
Stop it, Mother...!
When we broke up, Julia was crying that she did it for her family!
Uncle! I heard that Lord Calthorpe is here!
W-Wait! Kate!
Slam!


Two girls named Katherine in the same family...
One as beautiful as a rose in the morning dew...
...But the one I'm here for is this plain, ordinary girl with the personality of a rose's thorn?
"A wonderful girl" indeed, Tom!
This girl is Tom's sister?
And yet, what an odd situation...
More importantly, Uncle...
I believe our guest has business with me?
Er...
That man is their son?
I was going to, but I couldn't go into town looking like this.
Your son Walter will know what I mean.
Naturally, I was going to introduce you when you returned.
Y-Yes... That's right, Kate.
She has the same name as our daughter, so we call her Kate.
Her?
Lord Calthorpe...
This is Tom's sister, Katherine Payne.

Oh, don't make a fool yourself, Uncle.
It's so cold outside, and we would love to hear stories of Tom, as well.
J-Just a moment...!
Would you mind showing me the garden, Miss Payne?
You haven't showed an interest in my brother even once in the last four months!
Besides, I'd also like to speak with Lord Calthorpe in private.
Kate! You...!
What?
Finally...
At long last, I can thank him properly for coming, after keeping me waiting for four months!
They would have sent someone to call his sister Katherine back.
Normally if a comrade-in-arms of Tom's came calling...
Instead, it was almost as if these Paynes...
...were somehow inconvenienced by the real Katherine's return.
He's their son?
And that man called Walter...
I'd like to have a word alone between those of us who knew Tom.
Now, Sir Payne.
What sort of family is this?

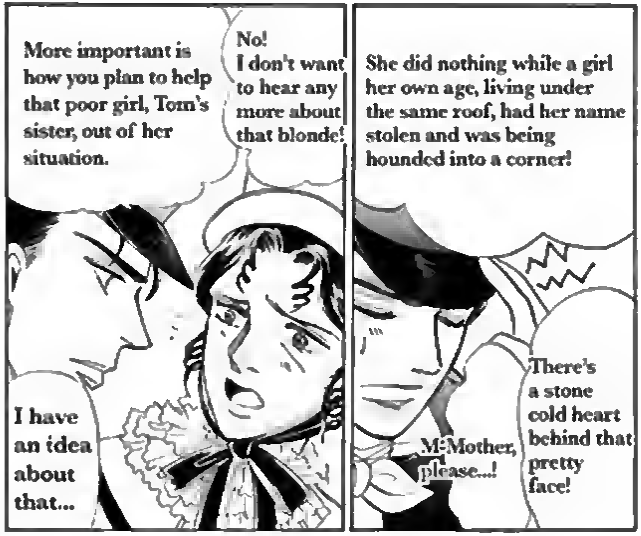

They were asking if he might be interested in marrying you.
They both took quite a shine to my boy, Walter.
My uncle had brought my executors around to his side.
Get out! I'll never marry you!
Calm down. The executors were concerned about that fiery spirit of yours...
They think that marrying me and letting me manage the estate and fortune might settle you down...
Whe...
...and that meneging the estate for your brother until now was unbecoming of a lady of your status.
Stop it! What are you doing?
From what you just said, it sounded as if you had been expecting me to come sooner...
Just a moment, Miss Payne.
But...
It was July when I sent you a second letter, asking for your help! Now it's November and practically winter!
Oh? And was I wrong to?
After 10 days... Then a month, I kept praying like a fool for your arrival
He'll be coming soon... The major will come, and free me from my uncle and his family...
Ah, Kate. I went to meet your executors today.


Just a minute...!
What did you mean, "second letter"?
I know that I sent it to the Army Ministry.
Don't be a coward.
Miss Payne.
I will swear on every one of my comrades-in-arms that fell at Waterloo.
I've become so wratched..!!
I'm even blaming Tom, my one-and-only beloved brother!
Woman are more attractive whan they're quiat and obediant.
Shove!
This is what happens when you fight back.
No...!
My first kiss was stolen in humiliation...
Since then, everyone in the house was against me.
I had to keep a low profile, while constantly on my guard...
...never knowing a moment's peace, except when I want to see Tilly.
Oh, how I wish Tom had never selfishly joined the Army and let this all happen!


But I'm also going to assume that you also never received the four letters that I sent here, correct?
I don't know...
It's true. I don't believe he's lying.
T-Then what happened to my letter...?
What?
Every month, I sent letters from the Army Ministry, and from my estates after retiring. Because there was no reply, I grew worried and came to visit.
Gasp
It couldn't be...
It would seem that someone has been intercepting our letters...
That doesn't make sense! I never got a single...
N-No...!
Believe me when I say...
I never received any second letter.
His eyes...
They're so honest... So strong.

...Miss Payne, are you all right?
...Payne.
They're horrible! They would do anything to get what they want!
Oh.
Such a broad and warm chest...
はっ
Gasp
I pressed against it without even thinking...
Miss Payne?
Her uncle's family?
How dare they!
How...
These are the lengths they would go to for my fortune...?
They were isolating me so they could control me...

What am I thinking?
It doesn't matter what kind of woman she is
I have to honor my promise to Tom
It would be an admirable quality in a soldier...
...but in a woman?
Does this have something to do with the second letter that you sent me?
I beg your pardon, but it would seem that you've found yourself in an unfortunate environment.
Why don't you tell me all about it.
I came to fulfill my promise to Tom, for you to be happy.
What am I doing?
Shove!
I-I'm fine!
GASP!
A sheltered lady of her stature would normally either break down crying or not show a trace of emotion.
I'm very sorry.
More importantly...
It seems Tom's younger sister...
...has as much pride as a man when it comes to showing weakness.
I see...
Although I wasn't expecting this situation, I've obviously misjudged you terribly.


More important is how you plan to help that poor girl, Tom's sister, out of her situation.
No! I don't want to hear any more about that blonde!
I have an idea about that...
She did nothing while a girl her own age, living under the same roof, had her name stolen and was being hounded into a corner!
There's a stone cold heart behind that pretty face!
M: Mother, please...!

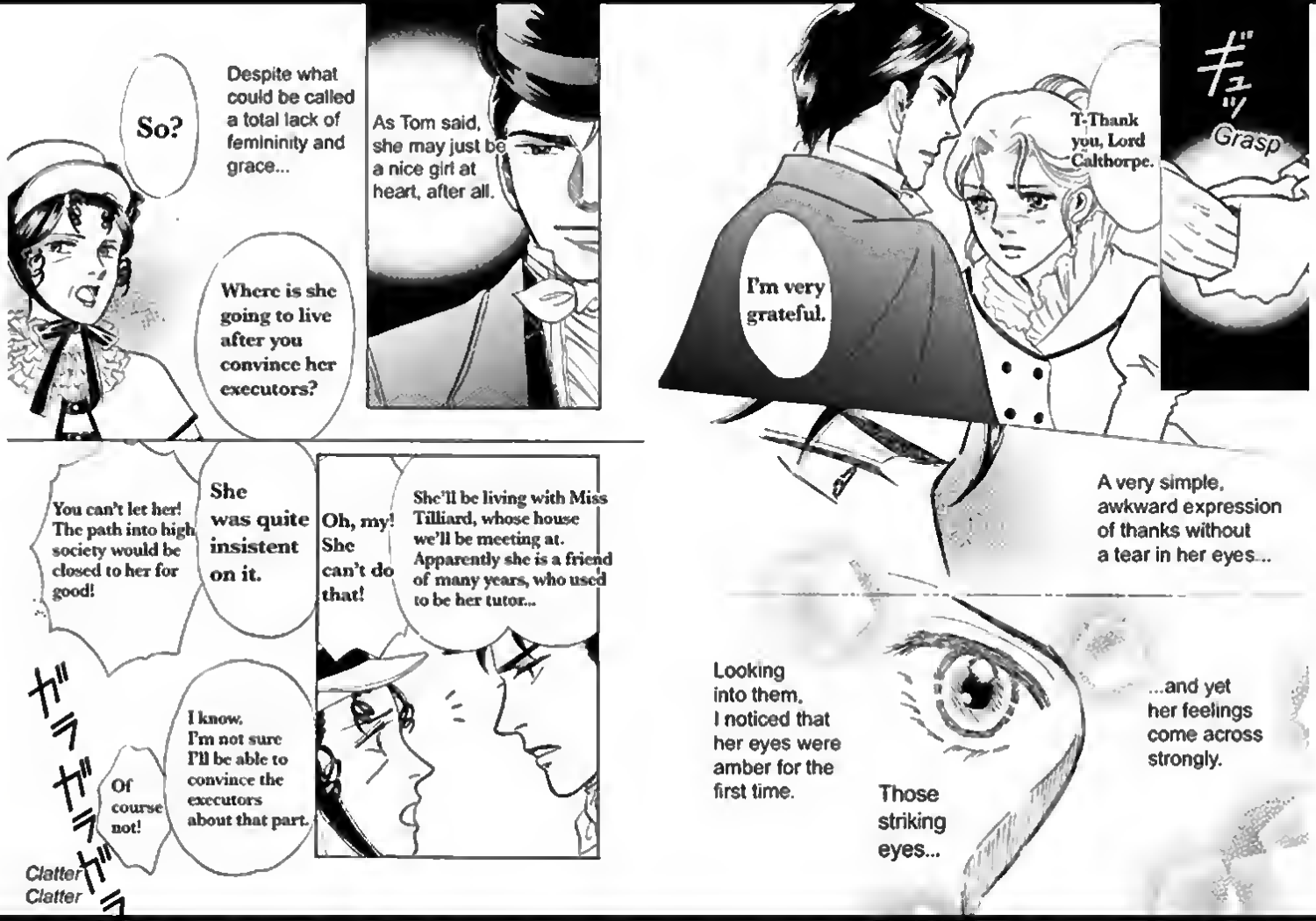
If they find out your plans to leave, they're sure to try and stop you.

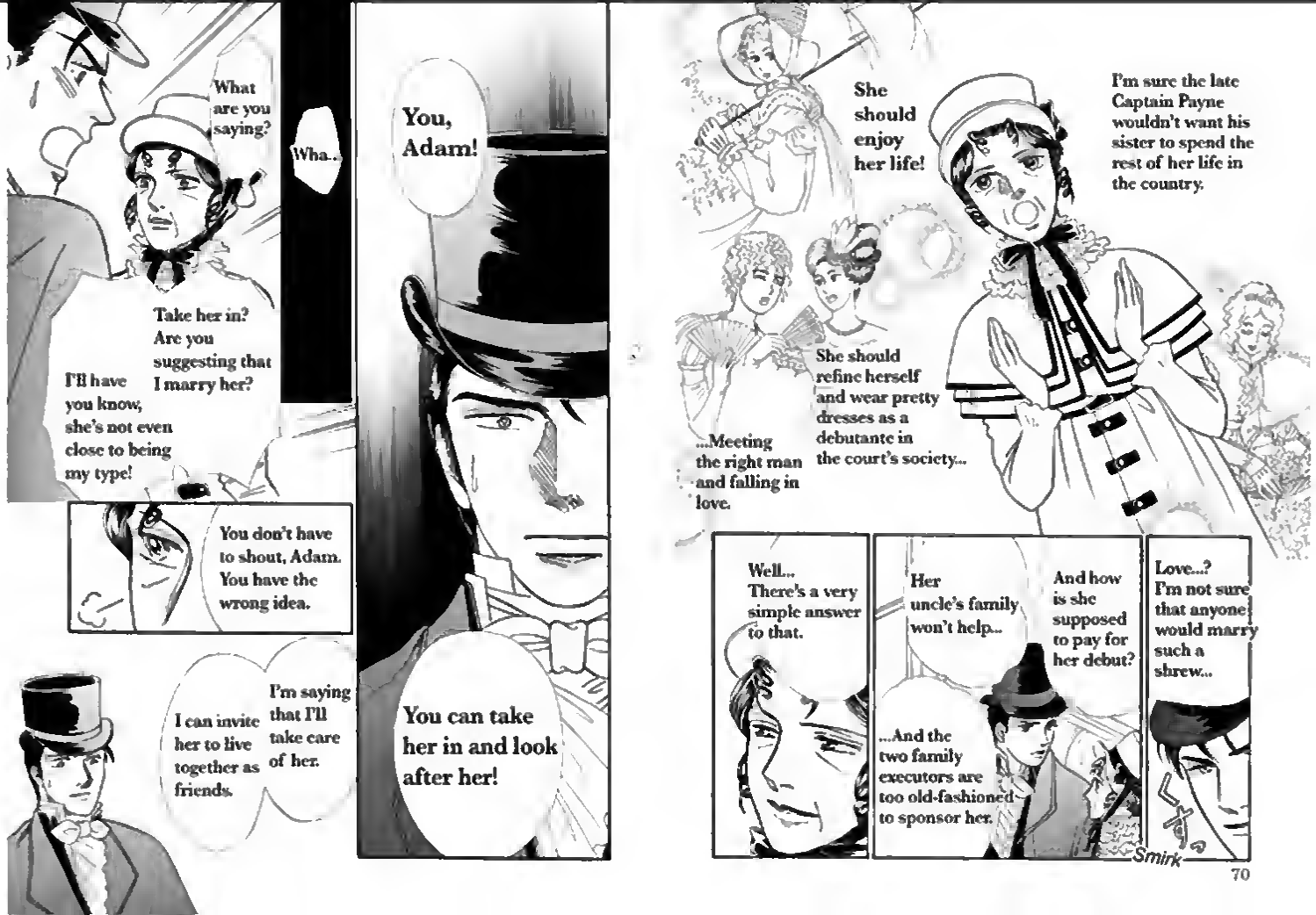
...but you should keep this secret from your uncle and his family.

I'll think it over tonight and meet with the executors first thing tomorrow...

I understand your position.

Let's meet at your friend Miss Tilliard's house at noon tomorrow in order to avoid suspicion.


So?
Despite what could be called a total lack of femininity and grace...
As Tom said, she may just be a nice girl at heart, after all.
Where is she going to live after you convince her executors?
T-Thank you, Lord Calthorpe.
Grasp
I'm very grateful.
A very simple, awkward expression of thanks without a tear in her eyes...
You can't let her! The path into high society would be closed to her for good!
She was quite insistent on it.
Oh, my! She can't do that!
She'll be living with Miss Tilliard, whose house we'll be meeting at. Apparently she is a friend of many years, who used to be her tutor...
Of course not!
I know. I'm not sure I'll be able to convince the executors about that part.
Clatter Clatter
Looking into them, I noticed that her eyes were amber for the first time.
Those striking eyes...
...and yet her feelings come across strongly.


What are you saying?
Wha...
Take her in? Are you suggesting that I marry her?
I'll have you know, she's not even close to being my type!
You don't have to shout, Adam. You have the wrong idea.
You, Adam!
You can take her in and look after her!
I can invite her to live together as friends.
I'm saying that I'll take care of her.
She should enjoy her life!
I'm sure the late Captain Payne wouldn't want his sister to spend the rest of her life in the country.
She should refine herself and wear pretty dresses as a debutante in the court's society...
...Meeting the right man and falling in love.
Well... There's a very simple answer to that.
Her uncle's family won't help...
And how is she supposed to pay for her debut?
...And the two family executors are too old-fashioned to sponsor her.
Love...? I'm not sure that anyone would marry such a shrew...
Smirk

Convince her that she's better off coming to live with us.
At any rate, you'll have to convince Katherine first!
Perhaps...
Although I'm sure that I can find some beauty in a girl who's stayed strong in a situation like that.
I couldn't...!
High society...?
I have no interest in the world of glamour!
Why not, Katherine? I don't think it's such a bad idea.
It was always my dream to have a girl that I could talk to, pick out dresses together...
Since you were a boy, you never paid me much attention.
That rose thorn, a beautiful blossom?
Smirk
I might believe that dream would be possible with the other Katherine.
Aren't you being a bit far-fetched, Mother?
Oh, Adam. You should be happy to help!
It would be wonderful...!
Katherine would regain her love for life over the winter...
...and be reborn like a beautiful flower, blossoming for the debutante season in spring.

Blush
W-What did I...
Why did I say that?
Jump
K-Katherine... What's the matter with you?
Don't speak to Lord Calthorpe like that!
All right. I think I understand what you think of high society.
I don't know why, but when I heard him talk about her, I lost control...
...but you'll still have to go with my mother, Katherine.
What?
You're obviously the type who would rather quietly read a book than enjoy a dance...
...but you gentlemen don't care a bit, as long as she looks pretty.
She might only seem greedy to me...
I imagine her wish will come true right away!
Any other young woman would jump at the idea.
I don't understand...
A 21-year-old country girl like me, becoming a debutante?
The other Katherine's pretty face lit up with excitement when I spoke to her yesterday, about her debut next spring
...but I would rather live here quietly.
I'm grateful for Mrs. Calthorpe's offer, of course...
Oh, I'm sure it did! It's my uncle's dream for her to become a debutante and find some wonderful husband!

Shojo Manhwa Scans

Lord Calthorpe's Promise 1

Sylvia Andrew

shojomanhwascans.blogspot.com

Shojo Manhwa Scans

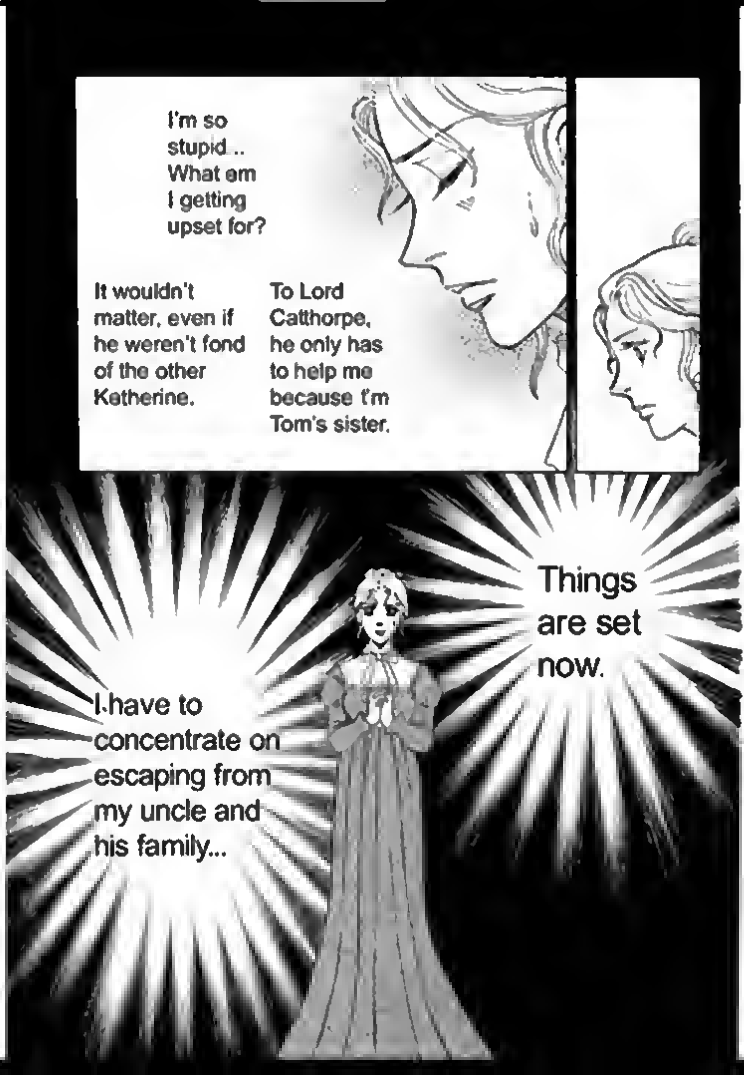
Presents

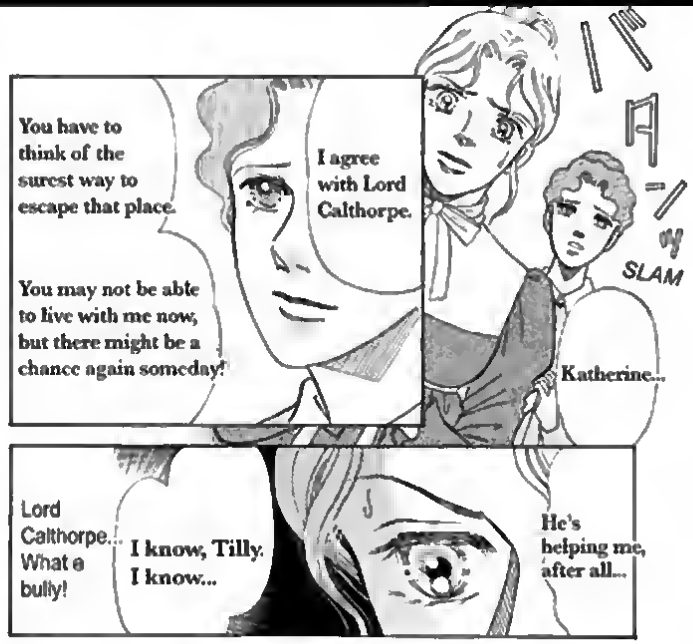
Lord Calthorpe's Promise 1

Editor: Duchess

Scans provider: Ruby

Then I have no choice but to accept your mother's offer!
Th...
You only have one choice.
Good... Get ready to leave.
My mother is waiting for us in town.
Whichever you choose, that will be your life.
Then again, if you were to become a debutante...
It's their responsibility to keep your best interests in mind. Not even the king himself could make them agree.
N-No! I don't want to! I...!
There is just no way that the executors will let you live here.
Even if I vouch for you...
Why? I said that I don't want to go!
It's simple.
Miss Payne! Do you want out of that house or not?
ビクッ
Jump
...or you can obey and do what you have to in order to escape.
You can be stubborn and ruin the entire plan...


I'm so stupid.. What am I getting upset for?
It wouldn't matter, even if he weren't fond of the other Katherine.
To Lord Calthorpe, he only has to help me because I'm Tom's sister.
Things are set now.
I have to concentrate on escaping from my uncle and his family...

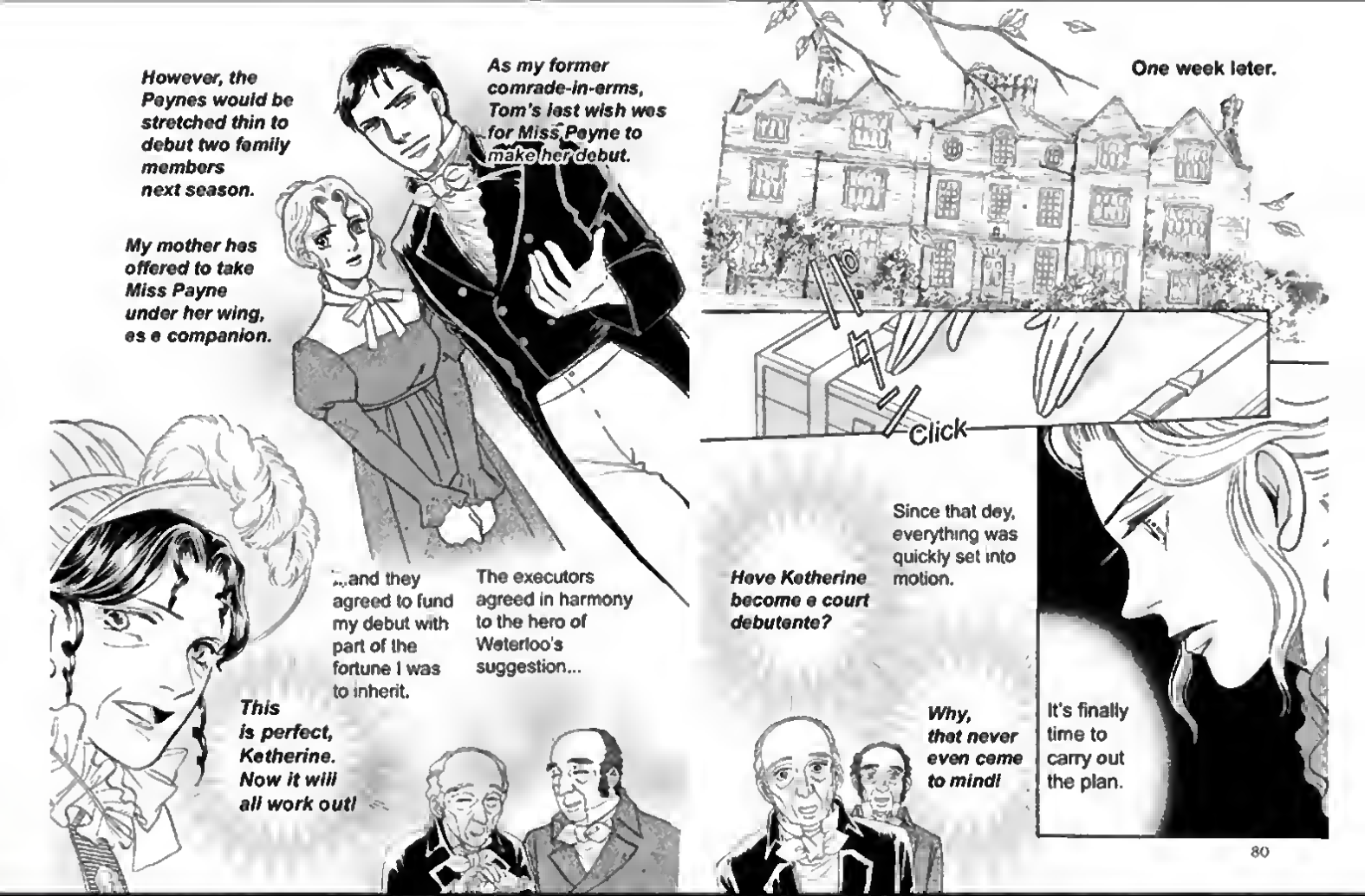

You have to think of the surest way to escape that place.
You may not be able to live with me now, but there might be a chance again someday!
I agree with Lord Calthorpe.
SLAM
Katherine...
Lord Calthorpe... What a bully!
I know, Tilly. I know...
He's helping me, after all...

And yet, he's still practically infatuated with the other Katherine...

He's so calm, like he thinks it's natural for me to obey him.

Does he think of me as one of his subordinates?

I had absolutely no intention of ever becoming a debutante.


However, the Paynes would be stretched thin to debut two family members next season.
My mother has offered to take Miss Payne under her wing, as a companion.
As my former comrade-in-arms, Tom's last wish was for Miss Payne to make her debut.
...and they agreed to fund my debut with part of the fortune I was to inherit.
The executors agreed in harmony to the hero of Waterloo's suggestion...
This is perfect, Ketherine. Now it will all work out!
One week later.
Click
Since that day, everything was quickly set into motion.
Have Ketherine become a court debutante?
Why, that never even came to mind!
It's finally time to carry out the plan.

Several days ago, Miss Payne accepted my mother's invitation for her to stay at our manor as a friend of the family.
That's right.
What? You're taking Kate to your estate?
Ha'ha...
K-Kate's executors wouldn't agree to that...
It's such a sudden invitation...
We have both of their signatures here, approving the visit.
I...
That's strange. Aren't these the names of her executors?

Now! You'll have to be thoroughly prepared at our mansion for your spring debut.
It will be all right. Just leave it to me!
I liked her right away.
Mrs. Calthorpe was an open-hearted and kind woman.
I prepared in secret so that my uncle's family wouldn't notice.
It's been a week since then.
ガラガラガラ
Clatter Clatter Clatter
They're here!

Kate!
No, it isn't.
Uncle... I accepted this invitation of my own free will.
It is not a kidnapping.
I'm sorry to have kept you waiting, Lord Calthorpe.
We are in a hurry to leave, so please give my regards to the rest of the family.
I'm grateful to you for letting me live here after my brother's passing, of course.
What are you plotting, Lord Calthorpe?
You're taking Kate away... By going behind my back to the executors!
You must be after her fortune! You won't get away with this!
I-I won't allow this! T-This is... a kidnapping!
Yes! A kidnapping!
I had never even considered something so dishonest.
What?
Well! This is a surprise.

Goodbye, Helier Manor
Clatter Clatter Clatter
Thank you so much. Both of you...
We've done it, Kate! It's the beginning of a grand adventure into the future!
My birthplace...
The wonderful memories that I have there with Tom...
...will never fade.
Although it's now become infested with devils...
...was that you and your son would imprison me here for life!
Uncle...
The only crime that I was afraid of...
I'll send for the rest of my things.
Goodbye.
W-Wait! I won't allow this crime to happen, Kate!
Whip!
Kate!
Clatter Clatter Clatter

Just think about it.
Think how the last four months have been for her.
Katherine? Fragile?
Isn't it obvious? She's a deeply hurt and fragile little girl!
What's wrong with that?
She's lost her brother and her home, been hounded by those devils and thought she'd been abandoned when she reached out to you for help.
Can you imagine how she fought, all alone...
Wearing herself down emotionally...
What you're doing to her is like ordering a traumatized soldier to march on ahead without breaking rank.
...until she became overly sensitive to being forced to do anything?
We'll see you tomorrow.
Wait, Katherine.
Good night to you both.
It was dark by the time we reached our first lodging in the town of Farnham.
No, thank you! I'm not a child!
Order some hot milk before bed because you're tired, all right?
Oh, Adam... Do you always sound like you're giving orders?
Of all the...! Why does she always talk back?
Katherine!
SLAM

The first thing the future wife of Lord Calthorpe would need is to be obedient.

What kind of a woman could be with him and not get irritated?

Following his orders without question...

...Respecting her husband over herself, no matter what.

In other words, my exact opposite.

Stab

...like the other Ketherine he seems to be attracted to.

Someone blonde, blue-eyed and beautiful...

I react without thinking.

This must be what they mean, that I'm "antisocial".

No... Even if Mother is right...

I doubt she's a weak woman by nature.

Katherine, fragile...

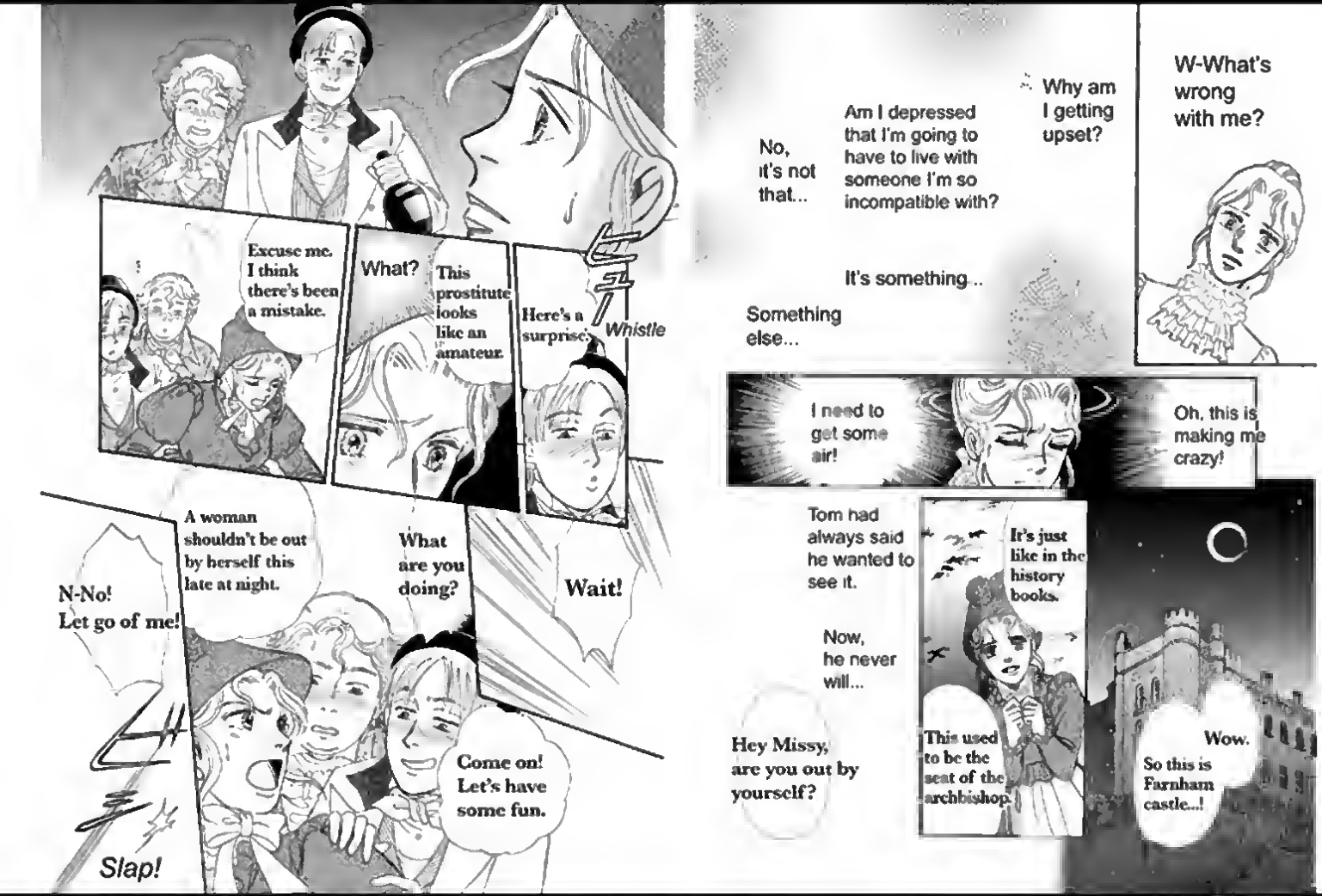
It had never occurred to me.

She's the complete opposite...

...of the utterly fragile and delicate Julia Redshaw.

There's no way she's the type to rely on others.

No doubt she must have only reached out to me this one time because things were beyond her control.

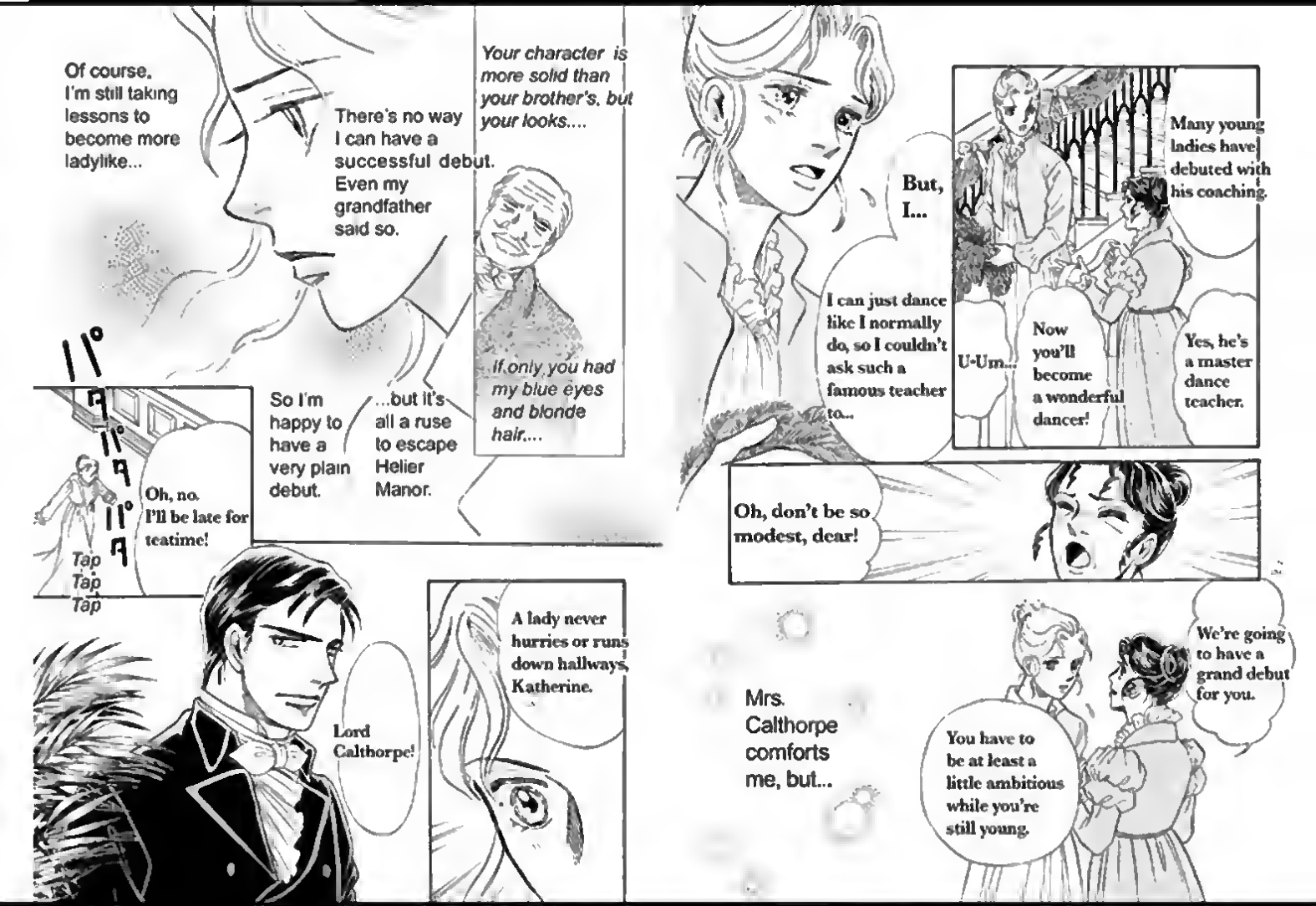

Excuse me. I think there's been a mistake.
What?
This prostitute looks like an amateur.
Here's a surprise.
Whistle
Wait!
A woman shouldn't be out by herself this late at night.
What are you doing?
N-No! Let go of me!
Slap!
Come on! Let's have some fun.
W-What's wrong with me?
Why am I getting upset?
Am I depressed that I'm going to have to live with someone I'm so incompatible with?
No, it's not that...
It's something...
Something else...
I need to get some air!
Oh, this is making me crazy!
Tom had always said he wanted to see it.
Now, he never will...
It's just like in the history books.
This used to be the seat of the archbishop.
Wow. So this is Farnham castle...!
Hey Missy, are you out by yourself?

Lord Calthorpe!
THUMP
Why you...!
POW!
I...
AIIEEE!
You think you can get away with that?
You little...!
Get her!
L-let me go!
AAH!
No...!
Help me...
Someone!
KPOW!

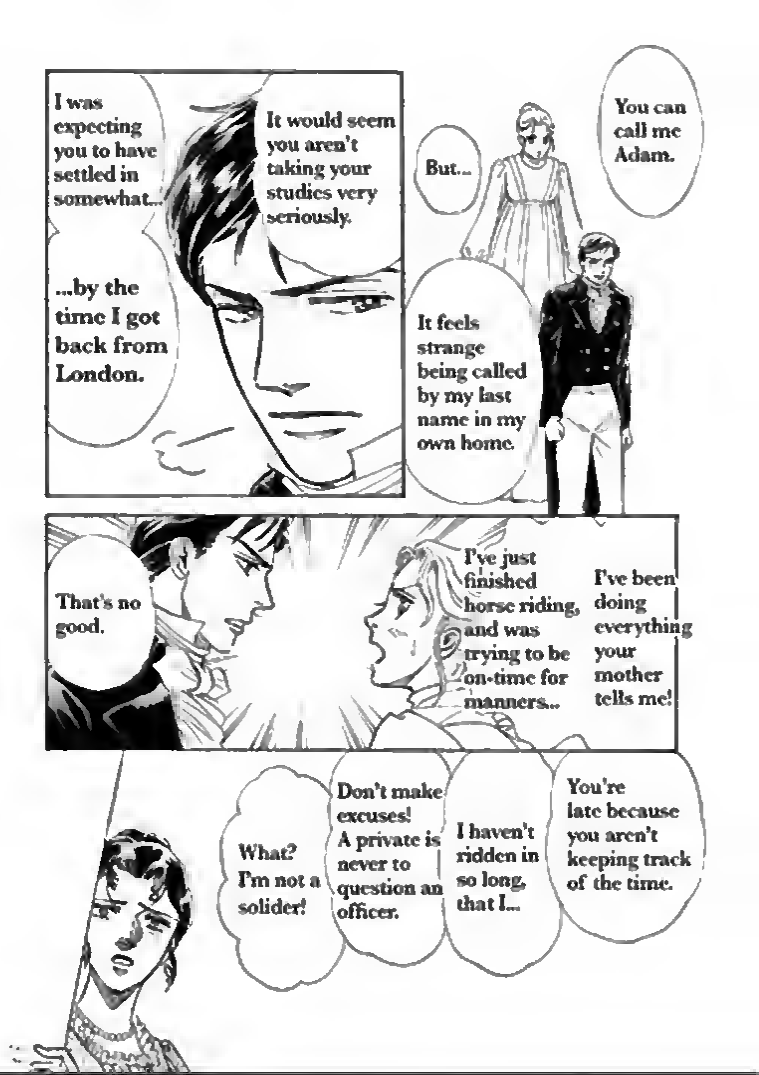
If something happened to you, what would they say about my mother, who is supposed to be taking care of you?
Think about how much she's taken to you, and how it would hurt her.
No, you don't!
I know! All right?
If you understood how important you are, you would be more careful.
I've never stayed in a city before, so I wandered off, as if I were still at Helier Manor.
I wasn't thinking... It's no excuse.
I'm sorry.
I'm fine. I can stand by myself.
I can feel the anger he's trying to hide...
I'll ask first, rather than be slapped away again.
Do you need me to help you stand up, or not?
Good night... Lord Calthorpe.
Fortunately, someone saw you leave and told me...
...but if they hadn't, think what would have happened!
Do you understand what you've done?
Grip
Wait! I'm not finished with you.
W-What is it?

You must be all right.
Good, that's more like you.
...
Click.
Just a moment. I'll call a maid to help you change. Oh, and to bring you some hot milk.
Did you hit your head?
As long as you understand, but...
I'm ashamed of what I did tonight.
Thank you for saving me.
...
You aren't talking back to me as usual.
I can tell that I was wrong!
H-How dare you?

Katherine! Katherine! I have news!
It's about your lessons!
The famous Monsieur Edward is going to teach you starting next year.
I'm such a fool...
How could I fall for someone who is the worst possible match?
When I try, he's the one stopping me.
He's forceful, strong and good at everything. I almost hate him for it...
Lord Calthorpe is a liar...
The hot milk isn't helping me sleep at all
And on top of it all, his smile...


Of course, I'm still taking lessons to become more ladylike...
There's no way I can have a successful debut. Even my grandfather said so.
Your character is more solid than your brother's, but your looks....
If only you had my blue eyes and blonde hair....
So I'm happy to have a very plain debut.
...but it's all a ruse to escape Helier Manor.
Oh, no. I'll be late for teatime!
Tap Tap Tap
Lord Calthorpe!
A lady never hurries or runs down hallways, Katherine.
But, I...
I can just dance like I normally do, so I couldn't ask such a famous teacher to...
U-Um...
Now you'll become a wonderful dancer!
Yes, he's a master dance teacher.
Many young ladies have debuted with his coaching.
Oh, don't be so modest, dear!
Mrs. Calthorpe comforts me, but...
You have to be at least a little ambitious while you're still young.
We're going to have a grand debut for you.

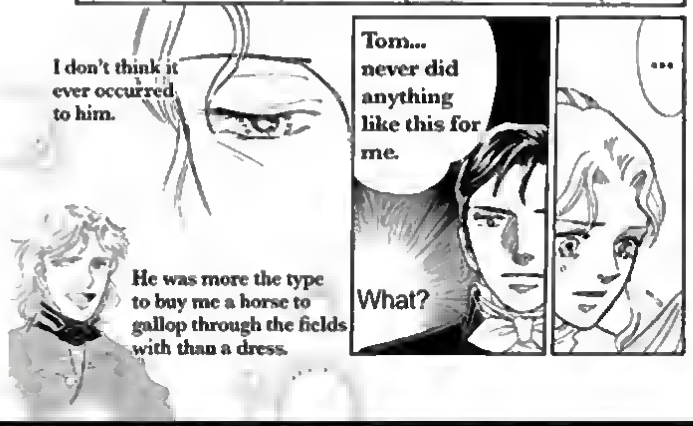
...
I was just... I'm sorry you saw that.
Why does this always happen?
Oh, Adam... You were an officer of Duke Wellington. Can't you be more diplomatic?
Why are you snapping at the girl as soon as you've come home?
Mother...
I told myself I wouldn't fight with Adam when he returned.
Yes, all the stores were busy for Christmas.
I was still able to buy everything you asked for.
About Christmas, Mother...
Oh, you didn't have to...
There's a present for you as well, Katherine.
Oh, thank you! Now we can have a fabulous Christmas!


I was expecting you to have settled in somewhat...
...by the time I got back from London.
It would seem you aren't taking your studies very seriously.
But...
You can call me Adam.
It feels strange being called by my last name in my own home.
That's no good.
I've just finished horse riding, and was trying to be on-time for manners...
I've been doing everything your mother tells me!
What? I'm not a solider!
Don't make excuses! A private is never to question an officer.
I haven't ridden in so long, that I...
You're late because you aren't keeping track of the time.

Is that so? I suppose I should have come all the way back from London to ask your permission?
I'm not going!
...
Since we've accepted, you'll have to come or we lose face.
Impossible. I told them about you, and you're invited, as well.
You just decided we'd go all by yourself?
Stop it, Adam.
You really don't know how to fight anything but an offensive battle, do you?
If you still don't want to go, I know the reason. You're afraid of noisy old Adam being your escort, right?
Wha...
Our neighbor's daughter married into the viscount's family...
...but they don't even attend London's high society parties.
There's no reason to be nervous.
It's all right, Katherine... Adam will escort you so you won't have to dance.
Besides, I'd like to see you in the dress we had made for you.
I still can't even dance...
Just a moment! No one knows me, and I'd just be in the way.
Please, you can both go without me.
I suppose. We can't refuse a neighbor's invitation.
Mrs. Calthorpe?
I ran into Sir John of the Redshaw family by chance while I was in London.
He invited us to Viscount Barmeny's family Christmas Eve party, and I accepted. I hope that's all right.
I know!
She should see the atmosphere a little before her debut in London.
Katherine must come, too, of course!

For me...?
Look at this, Katherine! This is perfect for you!
You bought some for me, too?
I asked Ivo to bring various cloth home on his way back from Paris.
I hope there's some that you like.

I intend to do everything for you that Tom would.
Of course, Katherine.

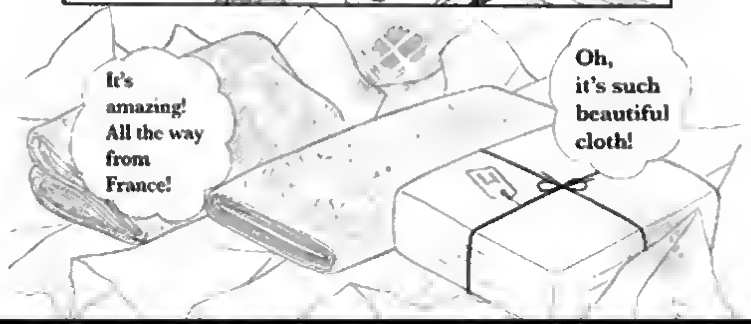

I don't think it ever occurred to him.
Tom... never did anything like this for me.
What?
...
He was more the type to buy me a horse to gallop through the fields with than a dress.

Good... So you both have something to wear for the party?
Uh...
I suppose this will have to wait for the next occasion.

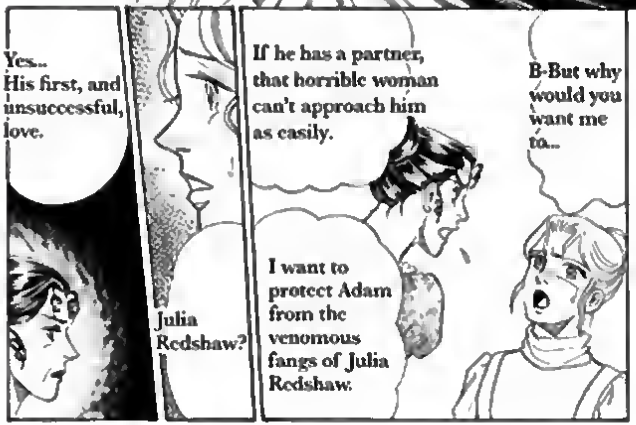
Oh, wonderful. Then it's settled.♡
Clap Clap

I-I'm not afraid of him!
A-All right, I'll go if I have to!

Oh, Adam! Did you bring me something? Let me see!
"This"? What do you mean, "this"?

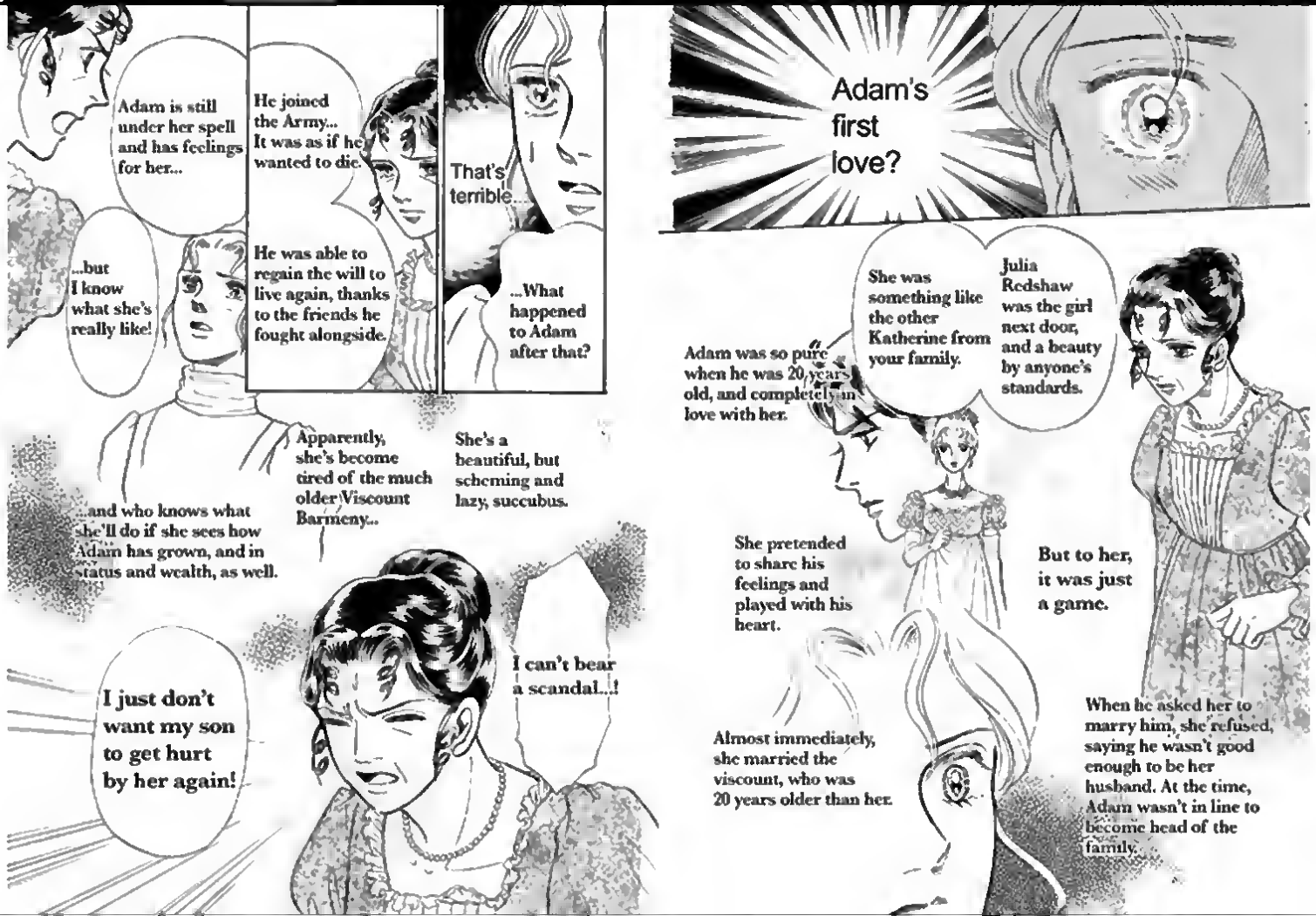

It's amazing! All the way from France!
Oh, it's such beautiful cloth!

On the night of the party, will you stay close to him?
I don't want you to think badly of me for asking this of you...
I want you to act as if you were his lover.
What?
Actually, there's something I want you to do for me.
Yes?


Yes.. His first, and unsuccessful, love.
Julia Redshaw?
If he has a partner, that horrible woman can't approach him as easily.
I want to protect Adam from the venomous fangs of Julia Redshaw.
B-But why would you want me to...

I-I told you to call me Adam.
Anyway, I'm glad you like it.
I've never received a present like this...
Thank you, Lord Calthorpe.

Hmm...
Mrs. Calthorpe?
Oh, never mind. It's nothing.
I'm so happy you agreed to attend the party.
By the way, Katherine.


Adam is still under her spell and has feelings for her...
...but I know what she's really like!
He joined the Army... It was as if he wanted to die.
He was able to regain the will to live again, thanks to the friends he fought alongside.
That's terrible...
...What happened to Adam after that?
...and who knows what she'll do if she sees how Adam has grown, and in status and wealth, as well.
Apparently, she's become tired of the much older Viscount Barmeny...
She's a beautiful, but scheming and lazy, succubus.
I just don't want my son to get hurt by her again!
I can't bear a scandal...!
Adam's first love?
Adam was so pure when he was 20 years old, and completely in love with her.
She was something like the other Katherine from your family.
Julia Redshaw was the girl next door, and a beauty by anyone's standards.
She pretended to share his feelings and played with his heart.
But to her, it was just a game.
When he asked her to marry him, she refused, saying he wasn't good enough to be her husband. At the time, Adam wasn't in line to become head of the family.
Almost immediately, she married the viscount, who was 20 years older than her.

Even in this new dress... I look so unrefined.

Oh, just look at me.

All you have to do at the party is smile and talk to him without getting into a fight.

I'll handle the rest.

I can't imagine things will go as smoothly as Mrs. Calthorpe says...

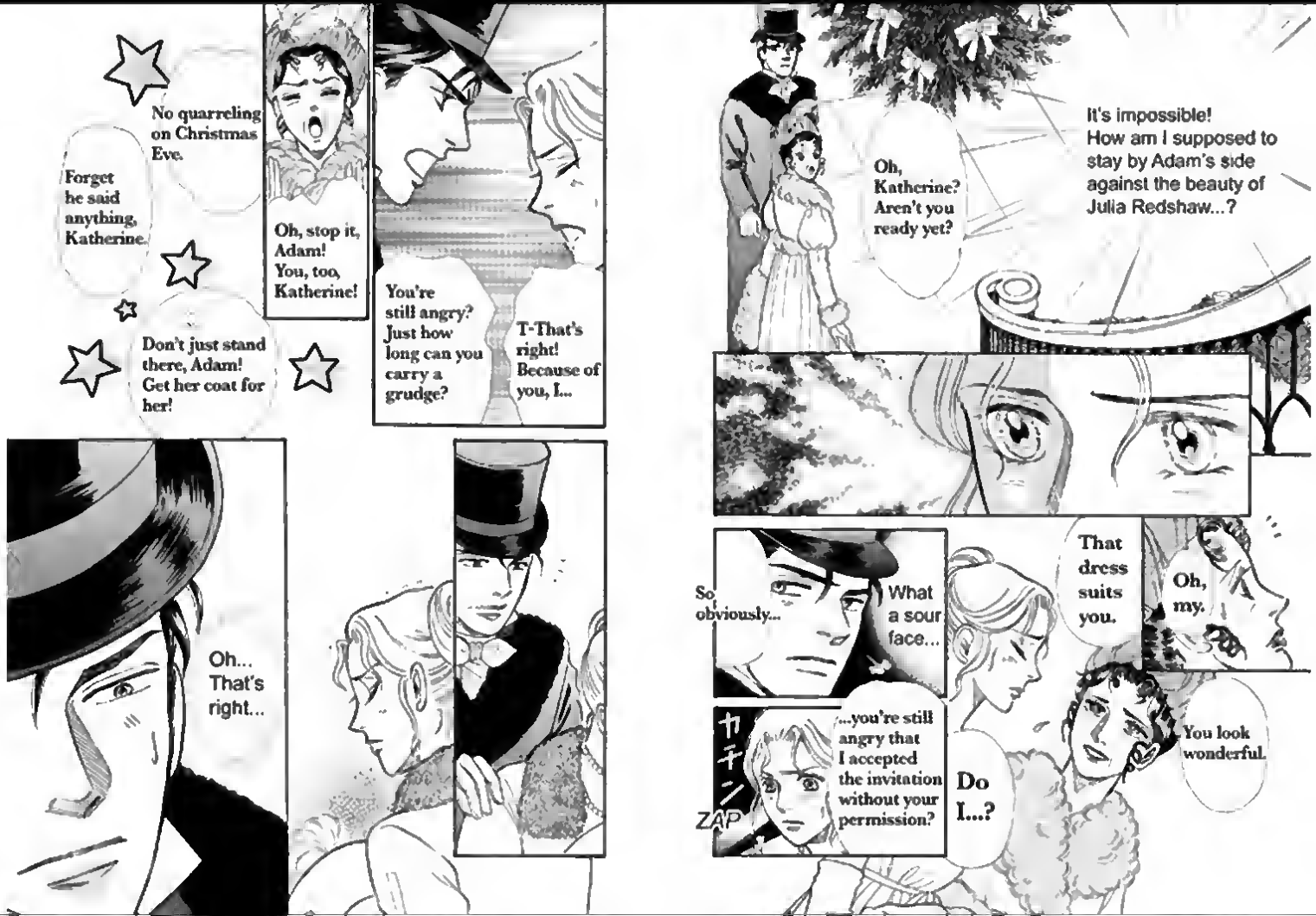
I'm so stupid. Why did I ever agree to this?

And yet, now...

What did I expect? No one cared about my looks, so I didn't bother to refine them.

I never needed to while looking after the estate.

Please help me, Katherine.

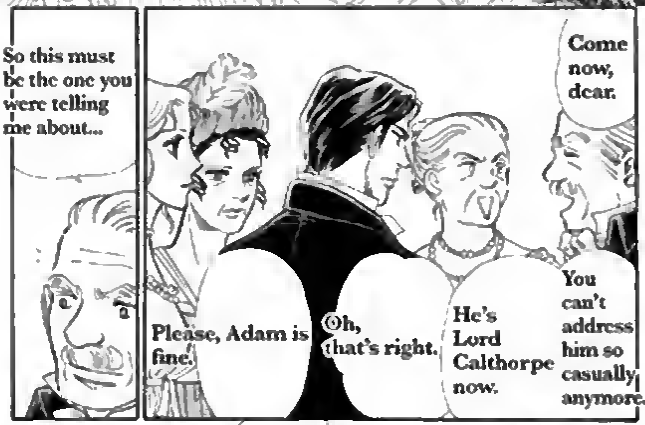

No quarreling on Christmas Eve.
Forget he said anything, Katherine.
Don't just stand there, Adam! Get her coat for her!
Oh, stop it, Adam! You, too, Katherine!
You're still angry? Just how long can you carry a grudge?
T-That's right! Because of you, I...
Oh... That's right...
Oh, Katherine? Aren't you ready yet?
It's impossible! How am I supposed to stay by Adam's side against the beauty of Julia Redshaw...?
So obviously...
What a sour face...
...you're still angry that I accepted the invitation without your permission?
カチン
ZAP
Do I...?
That dress suits you.
Oh, my.
You look wonderful.

All the things I say to you are only because I want to do my utmost to fulfill that promise.
I promised your brother that I would make sure you were happy.
Adam...?
So I want you to cooperate just a little bit. All right?
I'm sorry about that. It's difficult to forget the Army.
I just forget when you give orders as if I were a soldier.
W-What are you saying, all of a sudden?
A-All right. I'll try.
Katherine... You must be so nervous...
It's her first party, full of strangers.
It's obvious, really.
No matter how strong she tries to be, she's only a 21-year-old girl...
How careless of me... I was blinded by her fiery spirit and forgot all about it.
Allow me.
We shouldn't fight.
Katherine...

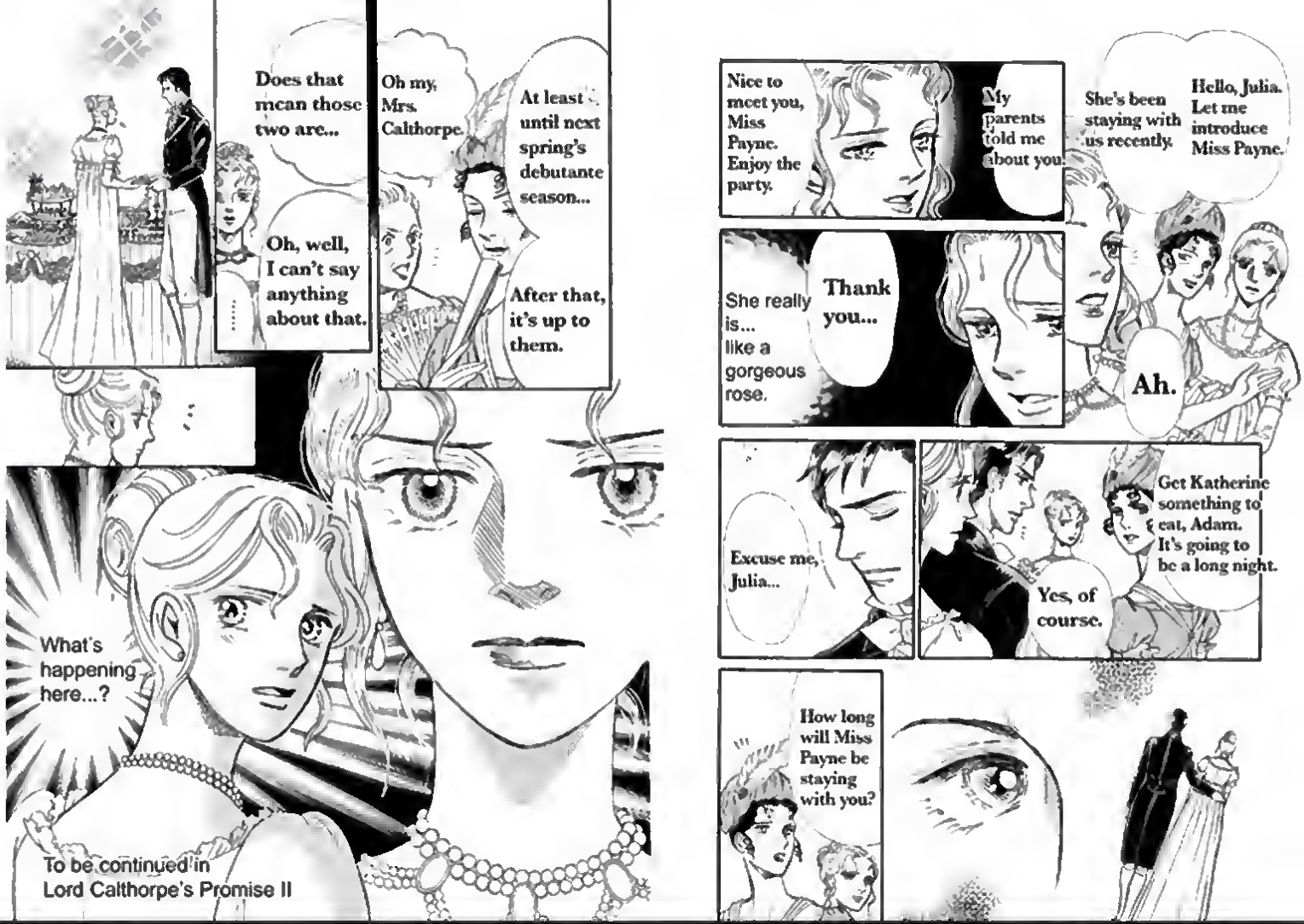
Adam...
The party will start without us.
All right, let's get going.
Oh, good.
That settles that.
Don't let her feel insecure.
You have to be a proper escort for Katherine tonight.
Well, that will have to do for today.
Smile
Guardian?
You don't need to tell me, Mother. I understand.
Tonight, I'll be the best guardian for her I can be.
If he acts this kind to me, I...
Oh, no...
I...
I'll do my best to change.
And I'm sure that you'll also try to open your heart to me.
I can only agree.
I...
Y-Yes...

It's been so long!
Oh, how I've missed you!
So this is Julia Redshaw!
Julia...!
Oh, stop... Call me Julia, like you used to.
You're as beautiful as ever...
It's been a long time, Mrs. Viscount Barmeny.

Adam! And Mrs. Calthorpe!
Welcome! Thank you so much for coming.


So this must be the one you were telling me about...
Please, Adam is fine.
Oh, that's right.
He's Lord Calthorpe now.
You can't address him so casually anymore.
Come now, dear.

Adam! Adam!
She is the sister of a dear friend.
Thank you very much for inviting me, Mrs. Redshaw.
Yes.
This is Miss Katherine Payne.


Does that mean those two are...
Oh, well, I can't say anything about that.
Oh my, Mrs. Calthorpe.
At least until next spring's debutante season...
After that, it's up to them.
What's happening here...?
To be continued in Lord Calthorpe's Promise II
Nice to meet you, Miss Payne. Enjoy the party.
My parents told me about you.
She's been staying with us recently.
Hello, Julia. Let me introduce Miss Payne.
She really is... like a gorgeous rose.
Thank you...
Ah.
Excuse me, Julia...
Yes, of course.
Get Katherine something to eat, Adam. It's going to be a long night.
How long will Miss Payne be staying with you?

Shojo Manhwa Scans

Lord Calthorpe's Promise 1

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Presents

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